



# The Journal of Diving History



First Quarter 2014 • Volume 22 • Number 78



**HDS GWS**  
**PAST, PRESENT  
AND FUTURE**



# NEW **HDS** RAFFLE!

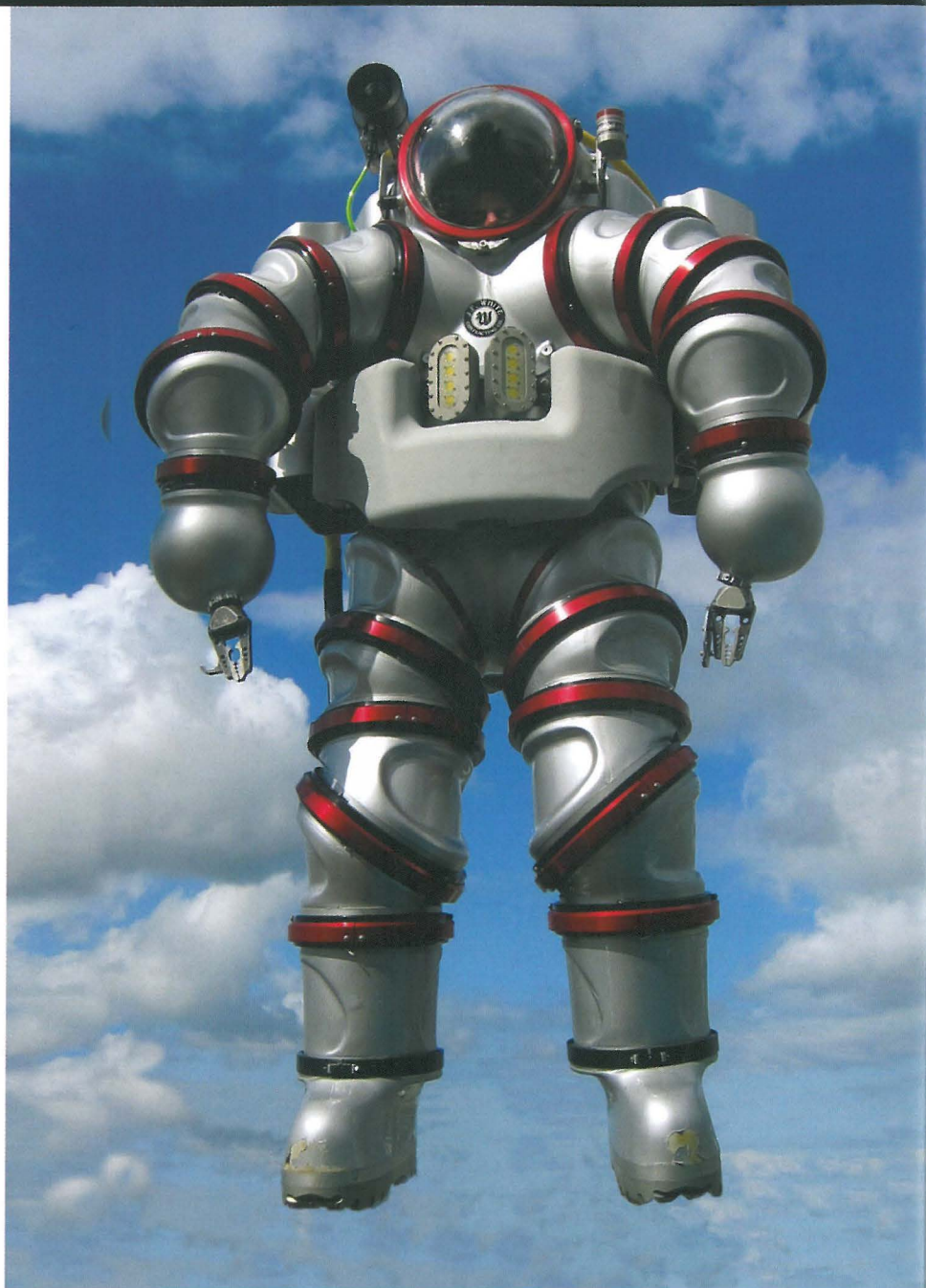
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# THE JOURNAL OF DIVING HISTORY

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## FEATURES

### 6 HDS GWS Past, Present, and Future By Dan Orr and Leslie Leaney

As the most successful fund-raising program the Society holds, the annual HDS Great White Shark Expedition has placed hundreds of members face-to-face with this most awesome of creatures. The program was founded and operated by Ed Stetson and has become one of the must-do dives for many members, who have it on their "bucket list." This three-part article by Dan Orr and Leslie Leaney records the origins of the program, how it currently operates, and what challenges the HDS faces with it in the future. With input from Stan Waterman, Mike Lever and Ed Stetson, and photos by Dan Orr, the article provides an insight into this unique program.



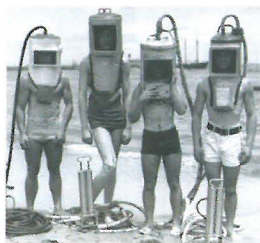
### 16 Capt. Sorcho's Great Deep Sea Divers By Leslie Leaney

As one of American diving history's most colorful and well-promoted divers, Captain Louis Sorcho and his public diving exhibition became a major public attraction at the turn of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The Captain and his crew, which at one time included Mrs. Sorcho as a diver, provided the public with a glimpse of the diver's underwater world. The Captain's exhibition travelled during the early 1900s and drew large crowds to the venues at which he appeared. Featured in this article are the entire contents of a 20-page booklet that was most probably sold at the Captain's exhibitions. It was real undersea drama delivered "live" to your local theater. Was it the nation's equivalent of "Reality TV" over a century ago? Tune in and find out.



### 39 The Suicide Club By Peter Jackson

In this short article English diving historian Peter Jackson follows up Gary Pilecki's article on Catalina Divers in his Images In History column from issue 77. Peter provides images and text from his archives, and wonders where all the girls who "man" the pumps have gone? Don't we all?



## COLUMNS

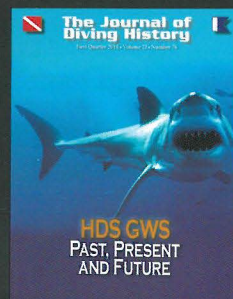
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## ON THE COVER

A great white shark turns towards photographer Dan Orr during one of the HDS Great White Shark expeditions. These unique HDS expeditions are the feature story in this issue. © 2013, Dan Orr. All Rights Reserved.







## Into the Future

With this issue of the *Journal* we enter our 22<sup>nd</sup> year of continuous publication, a record of which I, and all the members involved with the publication, are justifiably proud. The *Journal* has been the flagship and the calling card for the HDS, and is mailed to members around the world.

I started what was then the *Historical Diver* magazine back in 1993, and it would not have survived those early years without the vital support of Bev Morgan, Skip Dunham and their team at Kirby Morgan Diving Systems, led by Steve Chapparo. Over the years the publication has steadily grown in content and quality thanks to the dedication and knowledge of our numerous volunteer authors and the loyal support of our sponsors.



During the early years of HDS I held almost every administrative position and poured my own money into the HDS to keep it going. I worked as both President of HDS and Publisher of *Historical Diver*. It was not an easy undertaking but as a founder of both the Society and the magazine, I stuck with my commitment and things slowly improved. During the mid – 2000s I worked with the Board of Directors on finding a replacement for me as President. I had been involved in HDS

administration for 17 years when Steve Kushner replaced me, and the agreed upon "de-Lesliefication" process started at the Board level. I left the Board in 2009 and since that time have concentrated on developing the *Journal*.

One of the constant issues with the *Journal* is that it is seldom published on time. This is primarily because four of the five required staff positions for a properly functioning publication of this size and frequency are all filled by just one person: me. I am the Publisher, the Managing Editor, the Executive Editor and Fund Raiser/Advertiser. The fifth position is that of Art Director, which is held by Daron Jones. Apart from a brief break as Executive Editor, I have basically held those four positions for 22 years, during which time I have placed the accuracy of content above all else, including timely publishing. However, the timeliness of publication is now a more pressing issue because of some of the new administration systems introduced by the Board.

To review the current situation my good friends Chairman Dan Orr, President Sid Macken, and I had a meeting at the Beneath The Sea show to review what options and directions could be taken to improve the timeliness of the *Journal*. It was clear that I was unable to deliver it on time due to the numerous different operational positions I hold. So something has to change and now would seem to be a good time to start. The sooner the change, the sooner things have a chance of improving.

I feel that I have brought the *Journal* to a place of stability and that I have gone as far as I can go with it. I am not a trained professional in any of the required areas. I have simply tried to do the best I can with a common sense approach, which is the same as I did when starting the Society. So after 22 years of service and soon to be 67 years of age, it is time for me to sensibly relinquish some of those titles to some fresh faces who can take the *Journal* forward.

It is generally agreed that my value to the *Journal* and the HDS is in the area of historical knowledge, and I am happy to continue in the role of Executive Editor. As we progress through 2014 I will assist the Board in recruiting my replacements in the roles of Managing Editor, Publisher and Fund Raising/Advertising, along the same lines as we worked together in my stepping down from the Board.

An early step has already been taken in decreasing my work load, as Nyle Monday, who has worked with me in the HDS since 1994, has dealt with the column sections published in this issue.

We hope you enjoy the mix of historical content in this issue. 🐼

—Leslie Leaney, Executive Editor

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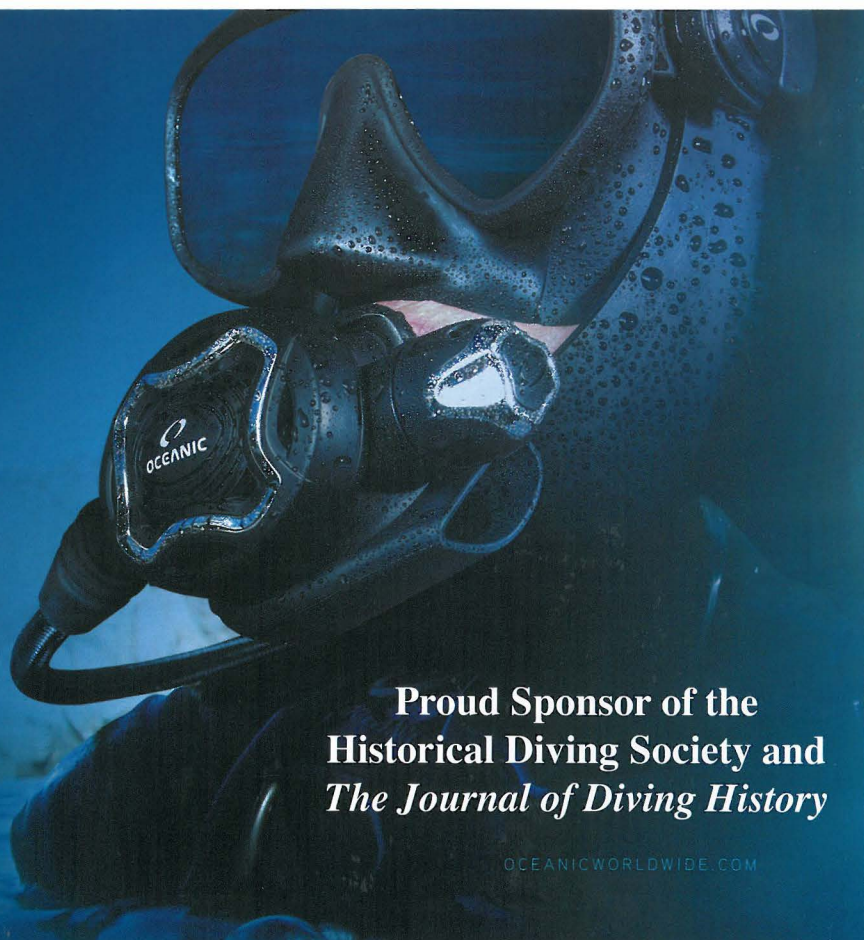
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## Ivor Howitt Photos

Dear Sid,

Just a note to say how much I enjoy your Submarine Lens column and to show you the enclosed photos which you may find interesting. One of my early adventures was in Aberdeen, "Far away and long ago," to quote W.H. Hudson.

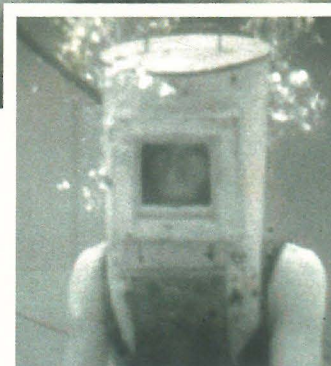
In my old age I am regressing to our early years and I was thinking of the day in 1947 when Alf Goodwin, the 'Bon-Accord' photographer, arranged for us to be allowed to take our gear into the Uptown Baths at 7 a.m. before the public arrived. Alf was keen to try out the waterproof tin box he had made for his Leica camera. The box had to be opened after each shot and the Leica wound on. He published the photos in 1948.

Well, our attempts now look laughable but they are a record of underwater photography as it began and interesting to compare with the high tech sophisticated equipment of today. Possibly we had more fun!"

Best wishes,  
Ivor Howitt  
New Zealand



*In Fathomeering, Ivor recounted the very beginning of recreational diving in the United Kingdom, specifically Aberdeen, Scotland and Australia, with the formation of a club called the Amphibians. So, here they are, from far away Aberdeen and long ago 1947. – Sid Macken*



## 2014 HDS Events in Europe

Dear Leslie,

HDS Germany is just finishing the second issue of our magazine, which will be a bit thicker than last time. We intend to publish two issues each year and I am working on an article about the stereo Rolleimarin for our third issue.

The 8th international meeting in Neustadt is in progress and all prior attendees should by now have received an invitation. HDS Norway will attend for the first time and Bjørn W. Kahrs will lecture about Norwegian diving history. We now have a more professional conference room right in the middle of Neustadt in combination with a good restaurant. I am proud to say that most of last year's attendants will be here again. There will be quite a few historical meetings in Europe this year: Copenhagen in Denmark, Lyon in France, Prague in Czech Republic, Barcelona in Spain and an event in the Netherlands.

I am one of the organizers of the Barcelona event, which will concentrate on the history of under water photography starting with the pioneers and ending in modern times. I managed to get some of Hans Hass' first rebreathers and also some of his under water cameras to display. Cameras from Kurt Schaefer will also be shown, and it is possible that he may also attend the meeting. You featured some of the first housings he built for Hans Hass in an article in the USA Journal. There will be several other interesting cameras and housing displayed. Michael Jung and I will be lecturing also. HDSUSA President Sid Macken is in contact with Andrés Clarós, who is the main organizer of the event and we hope that some USA members will be able to attend.

Best wishes from HDS Germany,  
Franz Rothbrust  
President, HDS Germany

## Remembering Hans Hass

Dear Leslie,

I would like to congratulate you on your excellent and wholly appropriate article in Journal number 76, on the life and work of the great pioneer Hans Hass, who sadly died last June. Although Hass was initially not so well known in America, his books, films, and television programs were immensely popular here in

England and, indeed, all over Europe, where he inspired countless devotees to take up the mask and fins, myself included. He was a true pioneer and a great speaker with a remarkable control of the English language and its quirky humour. He will be missed by many, but his work will live on.

I know that in recent years you were instrumental in bringing the work of Hans and Lotte Hass to much wider and well deserved attention there in America, for which I believe we all owe you a debt of gratitude.

Thank you.  
Peter Jackson  
Sussex, England



## Schrader USN MKV from USS Claxton (DD-571)

Dear HDS,

I am looking for any information about the name and company stamped into the transceiver housing of my Schrader USN Mark V helmet, serial number 422B, date 7/43. The stamping states Rich Uefelman, UFG (or maybe C)A, Salvage Co. I have documents showing that this helmet was delivered to the USS Claxton (DD-571) in September 1943. Any assistance would be greatly appreciated. Email [sredic@ipe-gmbh.de](mailto:sredic@ipe-gmbh.de), or call +49 (0)173/ 325 76 27.

Vejn Sredic,  
Germany  
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A massive great white shark approaches the cage. The dorsal fin of another shark swimming from left to right behind this one can be seen at the lower left.

# HDS GWS

## PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE





## THE HISTORICAL DIVING SOCIETY'S GREAT WHITE SHARK EXPEDITIONS

### ISLA DE GUADALUPE + BAJA, CALIFORNIA + MEXICO

All photos ©Dan Orr. All Rights Reserved.

## THE PAST

Founded in 1992, the HDS enters 2014, its 22<sup>nd</sup> year, as one of the industry's leading educational non-profit organizations, with a membership base in over 30 countries. During these formative years several fund raising programs have been introduced, the most successful of which has proven to be the HDS Great White Shark (HDSGWS) expedition, which is now held each year at the Isla de Guadalupe off the Mexican coast of Baja, California.

The origins of this program date back to the mid 1990s when Ed Stetson invited HDS co-founder Leslie Leaney to participate in his annual Santa Barbara Underwater Film Festival. The historical element introduced to the Festival by Leslie proved to be popular and was expanded upon when Steve Barsky suggested to Ed the idea of hosting a film festival featuring Austrian HDS Advisory Board members Hans and Lotte Hass. Ed agreed to organize and produce the event, under the stipulation that everybody would be a volunteer. Nobody would be paid and all the proceeds would be donated to the HDS. The HDS agreed, so Ed rented the beautiful and historic 2,000-seat Arlington Theater in Santa Barbara.

With Ed leading a team of HDS members and other volunteers, the 1998 Hans and Lotte Hass Film Festival was a sell out, and arguably the HDS's finest hour in the international diving industry spotlight. The success of that event cemented the relationship between Ed Stetson and the HDS, who were soon to be beneficiaries of a different kind of program headed by Ed. This one would not be on the screen, but in the sea: the annual HDSGWS expedition.

The HDSGWS is a triple benefit event as it allows members to see great white sharks, meet and dive with a member of the Advisory Board, and financially support the Society while enjoying this unique opportunity, which is only available through the HDS. It has also helped delete a "Bucket List" item for many members. As usual with all of Ed's programs, everybody involved in organizing the charter is a volunteer, and all proceeds are donated to the HDS. However, these trips would never be possible if it weren't for the enthusiastic support of Mike Lever, the owner of the *Nautilus Explorer*.

Beginning in 2007 Ed started the HDSGWS annual dive with Ernie Brooks of the HDS Advisory Board as the charter host, and Zale Parry as our special guest. As the prior head of the Brooks Institute of Photography, Ernie attracted a large core of his former students who had progressed to acclaimed careers. Among these were Cathy Church, Richard Salas, and Chuck Davis.

This first HDSGWS sold out and set the standard for all those that followed. In 2008 the Australian great white shark expert Rodney Fox and his wife Kay were the charter hosts. As probably the industry's most famous shark attack survivor Rodney's reputation seemed to have preceded him, and his presence in the water proved to be a great attraction for the sharks as plenty of them turned up to greet him. It was on this



A sleek great white with hardly any scars passes under the two-man deep cage.



*clockwork. It was cage diving at its best. Teams of divers were in and out of the four cages for non-stop encounters with the stars of the show; and the stars were there, often nose-to-nose as they nudged the cages. It was a white shark bonanza with happy campers at the end of each day."*

It was shortly after this 2012 expedition that Ed's volunteer work on behalf of numerous nonprofit and educational causes was recognized by the Academy of Underwater Arts & Science's NOGI Award for Service to the industry, which was presented in Las Vegas, Nevada, in November of that year.

In 2013 Oceanic founder and industry icon Bob Hollis headed up the expedition. With a career that includes founding several manufacturing companies, saturation diving on the *Andrea Doria*, and establishing dive resorts and liveaboards, Bob has been a creative and positive influence in the industry for six decades. Accompanied by his wife Ronda and son Nick, Bob gathered a large group of friends and staff for this charter, who enjoyed some of the largest great whites ever encountered on these trips.

This year the HDSGWS welcomes two of diving's most respected lady divers, who will each head up their own expeditions. Dr. Sylvia Earle will lead her group on October 19 – October 24, and Ms. Zale Parry will lead her group on October 24 – 29, 2014. For more on these expeditions email Ed at [ed@stetsondiving.com](mailto:ed@stetsondiving.com).

expedition that the two deep cages were introduced on the *Nautilus Explorer*, and proved to be an instant success with the underwater photographers on board.

The 2009 expedition reunited two of the industries manufacturing icons whose joint adventures started back in the 1950s. Dive 'N Surf co-founder Bev Morgan was joined by his old partner Bob Meistrell for a reunion of west coast pioneers. Bob and his twin brother Billy joined Dive 'N Surf when Bev arranged for them to buy his partner Hap Jacob's shares in the store. In 1957 Bev sold his share to the twins, who eventually developed the Body Glove company in the store. Bev went on to form Kirby Morgan who are a founding sponsor company of the HDS. This expedition included several members of the Body Glove media team including professional surfer Holly Beck and others from the movie *The Drop Zone*. Due to conflicting schedules no charter was operated in 2010.

*National Geographic*

*Magazine* has set the photography standard around the globe for decades, and in 2011 HDS was honored to have David Doubilet and his wife, Jen Hays, head the HDSGWS expedition. David has produced almost 70 articles in the magazine and juggling his busy schedule is always a challenge, but he found time to support the HDS and was extremely happy with the images he got from this trip.

As one of the main cameramen on *Blue Water White Death*, Stan Waterman has always attracted a large following of divers for his excellent underwater imagery and eloquent and humorous presentations. When HDS announced that Stan would be the featured diver for the 2012 HDSGWS the *Nautilus* sold out in record time. To satisfy demand Ed added a second trip and Dan Orr recounts part of this expedition in the article that follows this one. Advisory

Board members Valerie Taylor, Krov Menuhin, and Ernie Brooks also joined Stan.

Stan recently recalled, *"My 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebration on the Nautilus Explorer turned out to be a very special event for me. A gaggle of old friends turned up to wish me cheer in my dotage and share outrageous accounts of our shark experiences. The amenities on the ship were thoughtfully designed to please the comfort hopes of the most hedonistic diver. Fine wines at dinner flowed like the Danube, provided by the generous auspices of a fellow guest with a vineyard in California. The diving objective of the trip was to encounter great white sharks in close proximity. The expedition, with which that was accomplished by the ship's crew, went like*



## THE PRESENT BY DAN ORR

The HDS Great White Shark expedition is an annual fund raising program held at Guadalupe Island, Mexico. This volcanic island is located approximately 180 miles (300 km) off the Pacific Coast of the city of Ensenada, Mexico. Bathed in the cool, clear currents of the Pacific Ocean, Guadalupe Island is a protected Mexican Biosphere and is considered to be one of the best and most reliable locations for sightings of great white sharks in the world. In the waters around Guadalupe Island, adult male great whites range in size from 12' (3.6 meters) to 15' (4.5 meters). The females are larger, measuring 15' (4.5 meters) to 20' (6.1 meters) and weighing over 4,000 pounds (1,818 kilos). From a diver's and photographer's perspective, the conditions are almost perfect with water temperatures averaging near 70 degrees F (21 degrees C) and visibility regularly exceeding 125' (38 meters).

Each expedition is organized by Ed Stetson in conjunction with the HDS's Leslie Leaney, and Mike Lever, owner of the sturdy 116 foot *Nautilus Explorer*, the only vessel the HDS uses for these trips. Our 2012 expedition was hosted by the legendary HDS Advisory Board member Stan Waterman. Besides supporting the HDS, this trip was a celebration of Stan's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. When this expedition was announced, the interest far exceeded the carrying capacity of the boat and the result was a second charter creating back-to-back trips honoring this pioneer of our sport. Besides an opportunity to wish Stan a very Happy 90<sup>th</sup> birthday, the first week charter became a chance to bring together other legends in diving for a mini-reunion of those Advisory Board members who were part of one of the most iconic films in diving, *Blue Water, White Death*. As a result, the guest roster included

Valerie Taylor who, with her late husband Ron, was part of the original team who filmed this true classic in underwater cinematography. During the week, guests and crew were privy to a never-ending litany of stories about those early years in underwater filming, and hair-raising stories about the very first time great white sharks had been filmed in close proximity underwater for the big screen. During the trip there was a live HDS benefit auction offering memorabilia relating to *Blue Water, White Death*, including some pieces including an original movie poster signed by Stan and Valerie.

(See "Waterman Down," *Journal of Diving History*, # 74)

Regardless of who the celebrity guest host happens to be, these expeditions are a fantastic opportunity to have an experience of a lifetime both above and below the water while supporting the unique and vital mission of the Historical Diving Society.

As a member of the expedition your journey starts when you meet the other members at a designated hotel in San Diego, California. Here you are picked up by a luxury bus or motor coach that arrives at around 6:00 PM on the day of departure and which also unloads the group just returning from *their* trip to Guadalupe Island. There is always a flurry of interest as the bus arrives and guests meet the returning group, excitedly quizzing them about the details of their trip and, most especially, about the shark activity. There are always tales of great white shark encounters and not so slightly embellished tales of shark encounters from behind the sturdy aluminum bars of the cages.

As your group of intrepid great white shark divers say their goodbyes to their friends, the luggage, equipment and some fresh supplies are loaded into the belly of the bus. It is important to remember that there is minimal personal diving equipment needed on these trips. You only need to

supply your own exposure suit (wet or dry suit), hood, boots and gloves as required for the 68°F-70°F (20°C-21°C) water along with your personal mask. The boat supplies weights and surface-supplied breathing equipment. The *Nautilus Explorer* does have a limited amount of rental equipment available. Please see their website for more information on renting equipment.

As your bus readies for departure from San Diego, each guest boards and finds

completes their obligatory paperwork, they take their luggage to the crossing line and are asked to 'push the button'. This button controls a light that either shows 'red' or 'green.' If you're lucky enough to get the 'green' light, which by far the majority of people do, you can walk through the border crossing and onto the bus waiting a short distance beyond without having to have your luggage checked. If you get the 'red' light, the friendly Mexican Border Agents may



A large shark passes by divers in the deep cage.

their seat. Even with all the guests and their carry-on bags stowed on the bus, there is plenty of room to stretch out for the three-hour ride to Ensenada. Once everyone is on board, you will head south to the US/Mexico border. After a short ride to the border at Tijuana, all passengers and crew disembark and take care of the entry paperwork required for the border crossing, a necessary requirement for everyone entering Mexico. It is important to remember that anyone entering Mexico and returning to the U.S.A. must have a valid passport. No passport – No Entry.

As each passenger

ask you for details of your trip and may check your luggage thoroughly. Be prepared to answer questions since most Border Agents are unfamiliar with diving and underwater photography equipment. You should also be aware of something even the most frequent travelers to Mexico may be unaware of. Current Mexican Law prohibits bringing more than two cameras across the border per person. Although this may be an issue during your crossing, to be fully prepared, you may want to have your cameras verified as yours by your local Customs Office before arriving in San Diego. In that way, there will



be no question that you are the legal owner of this equipment and that you are not bringing them into Mexico for someone else or for resale. Most often, these border crossings go smoothly and you are on your way to Ensenada in short order. When you consider that 25 guests, all their luggage along with all their diving and photography equipment plus a couple of *Nautilus Explorer* crew members and a bus driver are involved in this evolution, it is a surprisingly painless process. Once through Mexican Customs and the bus reloaded, the trip to Ensenada continues arriving there at about 9:00 PM. As the bus pulls to a stop at the end of the pier where the *Nautilus Explorer* is docked, you are greeted by the vessel's fantastic crew with refreshing welcoming margaritas ready, while taking your luggage directly to your pre-assigned staterooms.

The *Nautilus Explorer* offers a wide range of accommodations to suit a variety of preferences from luxurious premium suites on the hot tub deck to a cost effective, triple occupancy stateroom on the lower deck. All eight lower deck staterooms have private heads with separate shower stalls, central air conditioning and measure 90 square feet. Six of the staterooms have side-by-side beds. Two of the staterooms have large double beds and additional storage area. There is also one co-ed triple occupancy stateroom. Regardless of which accommodation you choose, there is ample room for you, your luggage and personal belongings. On the spacious dive deck, there is also more than sufficient room for your diving and photography equipment including a charging


station for your batteries and battery packs.

When everyone is on board and situated, all the guests convene in the *Nautilus Explorer's* spacious lounge where you are introduced to the crew followed by a brief discussion of some of the vessel's basic safety rules. Afterwards, the guests adjourn to their rooms for a good night's sleep or remain in the lounge enjoying being on one of the most comfortable liveaboards around. This typifies the casual atmosphere of these trips. While the focus is, of course, seeing great white sharks, you are free to truly enjoy the trip at your own pace. Once on location, and whether or not you are in any one of the four cages, you are free to enjoy everything the *Nautilus Explorer* has to offer including the very popular hot tub on the upper deck.

Shortly after midnight, the engines begin to hum and the *Nautilus Explorer* gently pulls away from her berth, slowly making her way out of the Ensenada Marina heading southwest out into the Pacific Ocean. The gentle rocking of the vessel and humming of the ship's engines makes sleeping easy, while the *Nautilus Explorer* makes her way to Guadalupe Island. During the 20-hour traverse, guests get to know their fellow passengers and busy themselves readying their underwater and surface


photography equipment and personal diving gear. In keeping with the very high operational standards of the *Nautilus*, there is always an emergency drill with everyone donning life jackets and assembling on the stern of the boat. Some guests take full advantage of these free transit hours to catch up on some reading or just relaxing on the lounge chairs on the upper deck. During the crossing to Guadalupe you may be lucky to see dolphins or sea lions swimming alongside the ship, or even whales in the distance.

Late the next afternoon, you sight the island on the horizon. It is not uncommon to see the island shrouded in mist or clouds, and occasionally clouds can be seen streaming down the mountainside like an incoming white tide. One of the favorite sights is the Sharkfin

A large, detailed photograph of a great white shark swimming towards the camera. The shark is seen from a side-on perspective, showing its head, eye, and dorsal fin. The water is a deep blue, and the shark's white underbelly is visible. The image is positioned on the right side of the page, partially overlapping the text.

A large great white shark swims directly at the divers in the cage.





Rock that is an indication of what lies below the tranquil surface surrounding this seemingly mysterious island. There's a lot to see not only below the surface but also along the volcanic shoreline. You may be lucky to see one of the myriad of pinnepeds that make the shore of Guadalupe their home, including the Northern Elephant Seal or the rare Guadalupe Fur Seal. Even if you don't see them, you can certainly hear them, as the *Nautilus Explorer's* anchorage is close enough to the shore to hear their cries.

Occasionally,

one or more of these seals will make their way out to the vicinity of our boat and put on a display of bravery (or foolhardiness, depending upon your perspective) by swimming with the sharks, even biting them on the tail and then rushing to the surface where they leisurely watch below to see what their adversary will do. Despite these seemingly provocative actions, rarely do the sharks seek immediate retribution.

As the sun sets on your first day aboard, the *Nautilus Explorer* eases into the protected cove that serves as your anchorage for the coming days of diving. Once securely anchored, there begins a flurry of activity as the crew goes about preparing and putting the four tubular aluminum shark cages in the water. One cage is secured at the surface to the stern, a second cage is secured approximately 18' below the surface with an enclosed ladder leading down to it and the other two cages are submersible, with the ability to independently, while securely tethered to the vessel above by a sturdy cable, descend to a depth of approximately 30' (10 meters). Three of the four cages accommodate four divers each and one of the submersible cages takes two divers at a time. Breathing air is supplied through regulators with hoses coming from the surface. As a back up and safety precaution, the submersible cages are equipped with filled scuba cylinders secured to the corners of each cage each

with regulators and octopuses. These back-up scuba cylinders and regulators are also equipped with inflator hoses to accommodate those using dry suits in order to prevent suit squeeze during descent in the submersible cages. The two fixed cages, on the surface and the other at 18' (6 meters), are open on a first-come basis each day from 6:30 AM to 6:00 PM while the submersible cages have pre-assigned time slots posted in the lounge the previous evening giving each diver at least three scheduled submersible trips a day. Those wishing for more than three submersible trips a day can stand by to take advantage of any open slots.

As the sun rises on your first morning at Guadalupe Island, there is always lots of activity on the dive deck as anxious and excited divers ready themselves and their camera gear and queue up for the fixed cages while teams of divers prepare for descent in the submersible cages. While divers get their first taste and feel for the waters around Guadalupe Island, eagerly looking out into the blue Pacific water for the first glimpse of the world's most exciting apex predator, everyone else scans the surface of the water waiting to hear someone yell, "SHARK"!

Water conditions around Guadalupe are almost always ideal with visibility averaging around 125' and water temperatures ranging from 72 degrees F (22C) down to 68 degrees F (20 degrees Celsius). Although there is never a guarantee that you'll see lots of great whites on these trips, the guests have never been disappointed. The sharks are sometimes very curious coming close to the cages, occasionally bumping them with their noses or backs and then, every once in



awhile, one will actually grab or mouth the cage bars.

With Guadalupe Island being a Mexican Biosphere Preserve, there are very strict rules regarding baiting and chumming, the crew does a truly magnificent job bringing sharks to and keeping the sharks around the cages. Photo opportunities from the cages, especially the submersible ones, tend to be

*closed for the duration of the dive. HDS has had trips where every diver, in every cage, on every dive, on every day, saw sharks. And sometimes four at a time so close they often bumped into the cages. Photographers had to back up in the cage to keep them in focus they were so close."*

Each day, just like each shark, is different. Since dive boats have been coming to

do out there or what happens to and from this area is still a mystery but it is assumed that they possibly mate or give birth to their young before returning to their 'home' waters.

One large (by both length and girth) female great white named 'Lucy', very well known to visiting divers, is distinct because of a broken caudal (tail) fin which was possibly caused by a bite from another great white during some rather aggressive lovemaking. It is common to see many sharks with large bites and lacerations, probably caused by encounters with other sharks. This apparent disability does not seem to hinder Lucy's ability to dominate the water whenever she is around the cages. Regularly, when more than one shark is in the vicinity of the cages, you'll see them swim side-by-side as a way of demonstrating who was biggest and, therefore, dominant.

When not in one of the cages, guests may busy themselves enjoying the upper deck hot tub providing a warm respite after hours in the cool water. While waiting for another turn in one of the cages, guests can also take advantage of the constant flow of snacks available from the crew on the dive deck. These snacks include fresh fruit and cookies, along with water, soft drinks, hot chocolate or coffee. Between periods in the water, guests can also enjoy one of the sumptuous meals available. After the evening meal, guests are free to enjoy adult or not-so-adult beverages available for purchase from the fully stocked bar in the lounge while enjoying the company of fellow guests in the lounge. Meals are generous and very tasty. You will not lose weight on one of these trips!

During most trips to Guadalupe Island, guests have a chance to meet and hear a lecture by a leading researcher of great white sharks at Guadalupe Island, Mauricio Hoyos. One year, a young PhD candidate from Mexico City was on board collecting data for her doctoral dissertation. Not only was she interviewing

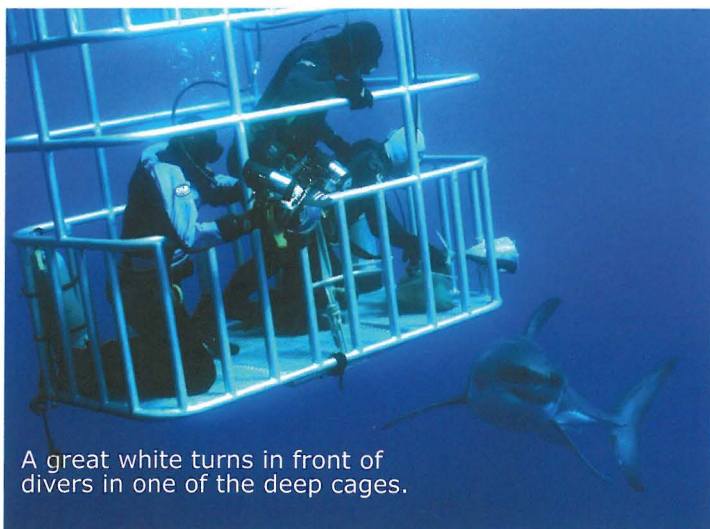
divers about their shark sightings but also she was able to observe her subjects first hand while diving in the cages along with the guests. Having folks like Mauricio and other shark researchers means that these trips, besides being famously exciting experiences, help to expand the body of knowledge about great white sharks. If your trip is lucky enough to include a lecture by one of these researchers, you will have a unique opportunity to hear details about the life history and behavior of these apex predators.

These trips are, indeed, a fantastic opportunity to spend some quality time with legendary figures in the diving world while, at the same time, supporting the mission and efforts of the Historical Diving Society. In the past the list of celebrity hosts has included Zale Parry, Ernie Brooks, Rodney Fox, Bev Morgan, Bob Meistrell, David Doubilet and Bob Hollis. Besides the camaraderie, guests share a seemingly never-ending series of sea stories and tales (many of which, may have actually been true!) of daring-do from their many years of diving giving guests and supporters of the HDS a rare opportunity to hear from those who have made major impacts on the diving world. Guests have an opportunity to celebrate the history of our sport and, at the same time, experience diving with some of the most amazing creatures in the sea!

For your own adventure, please join the HDS on one of our two HDS GWS expeditions in 2014.

The first trip is hosted by Dr. Sylvia Earle, October 19-24, and the second trip is hosted by Miss Zale Parry, October 24-29. If these are sold out (which all trips have been to date), contact Ed Stetson at [ed@stetsondiving.com](mailto:ed@stetsondiving.com) and get your name on the list for upcoming HDS trips. HDS members are given preference but have to be pre-registered on the list.

So get on the list and join this great HDS diving adventure.



A great white turns in front of divers in one of the deep cages.

some of the very best you'll see anywhere in the world with just about everyone getting their share of 'up close and personal' photo opportunities. During these great white encounters, you'll see these sharks exhibiting just about every kind of great white behavior including the occasional full breach. There are few things as awe-inspiring as seeing a 2,000 pound great white leap completely out of the water. Although this does not happen on every trip, there are few behaviors as truly astounding as a breach. No one is exactly sure why great whites breach since it is not always in pursuit of prey. Frankly, I believe they do it just because they can.

As far as underwater shark activity is concerned, there are times when you may see one great white circling the cages while at other times there would be 2, 3 or even 4 sharks coming within visual range. As Leslie noted *"On some trips the only way you could not see a great white shark was to get in the cage and keep your eyes*

Guadalupe, the boats along with shark researchers have tried to identify and name each shark. The *Nautilus Explorer*, for example, has a log book containing images and information on more than 120 individual great white sharks. Each shark, and great whites are the predominant species here, has been identified by distinct coloration and/or markings. Some of these characteristics have led to very descriptive names such as "Shredder" for his severely lacerated dorsal fin. Naming these sharks helps researchers keep track of their behavior through getting reports of particular sightings from visiting dive vessels. Also, many of the sharks are tagged, so that researchers can track their movement around and away from Guadalupe. The data these researchers have collected indicates that many of these sharks travel hundreds, if not thousands of miles out into the Pacific to an area between the Mexican coast and the Hawaiian Islands known as the "Pacific Café." What they



A large great white shark makes a pass by the photographers in the cage.



## THE FUTURE BY LESLIE LEANEY

Although the HDSGWS program continues to be very popular there are still potential challenges ahead over which the HDS has little influence. This is the main reason HDS encourages anybody considering to take this experience, to act immediately. The future is unknown.

As the Isla de Guadalupe is controlled by the Mexican

government, they have the authority to deny access to anyone. They have the authority to deny any vessel from operating without giving reason. Boats with the proper licenses have been ordered away from the island by the Mexican Navy without reason, although this has never happened to the *Nautilus*. To date, things have operated fairly smoothly for HDSGWS without any major issues. This is primarily due to the high professional standards set by both Ed Stetson and

Mike Lever, the owner of the *Nautilus Explorer*.

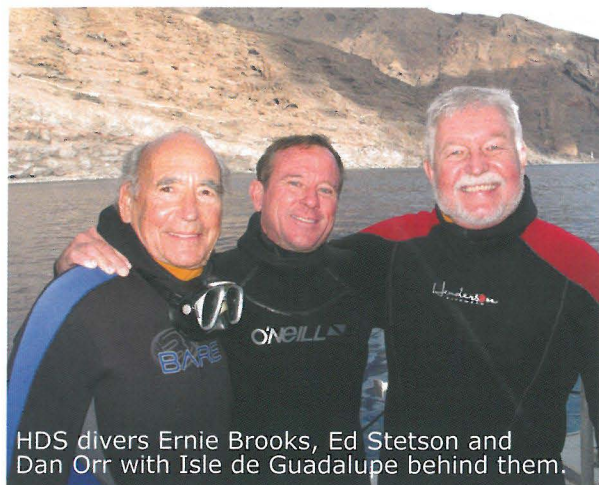
Guadalupe Island is a tightly controlled and protected marine biosphere. For example, before even being able to submit a permit application, a company has to conduct an environmental impact study which may or may not be approved by the Mexican authorities. To date, only five studies have been approved. And only six boats of any kind have permits to operate in the biosphere reserve. Some dive boats have

advertised shark trips and tried to operate in the biosphere.

They were ordered to report to the authorities on the mainland and risked arrest and seizure of their boats. Ed chose to work with Captain Mike Lever and his team on the *Nautilus Explorer* because of his confidence the boat is operated professionally, safely and in full compliance with Mexican law.

In 2010 during the David Doubilet expedition the Mexican Navy boarded the *Nautilus Explorer* for a spot check of the vessel and of the





HDS divers Ernie Brooks, Ed Stetson and Dan Orr with Isle de Guadalupe behind them.



A great white bites the cage bars while Art Nolan captures the action close up with his Go Pro camera.

licenses required to operate at Isla de Guadalupe. A boarding party, fully armed with automatic weapons, very politely ushered every one to the upper deck while the vessel was searched and the crew questioned. Once the Navy officials were satisfied everything was in order they departed and cage operations restarted. It was a sign, however, of how seriously the Mexican military authorities patrol the waters and enforce the law.

I make reference to this incident as not all vessels attempting to visit Isla de Guadalupe are properly licensed. Should one vessel be involved in some form of mishap it could prove very problematical for the others who operate at Guadalupe. Another major and very real concern are diving operators who claim to provide "out of the cage, open water" encounters with the sharks. This is NEVER done on HDSGWS or any other *Nautilus* GWS trips. Being in open water 300 feet deep off a seal rookery,

with unseen 16+ foot great white sharks somewhere in the depths below you seems extremely risky at the least. There is a growing consensus that it is only a matter of time before an incident occurs in this type of diving. And when it does it could easily signal the closing of Guadalupe to GWS diving operations. As Mike Lever noted, *"In Mexico it is illegal to dive outside the cages. I believe that it is a privilege to be allowed to dive with these sharks and nobody should be abusing that privilege by breaking the law."*

As our pioneer divers draw to the end of their careers the chances to dive and spend time with them are fewer. Stan Waterman celebrated his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday on HDSGWS but hung up his fins shortly thereafter. Ed and I are looking at various alternative programs for HDSGWS but still maintain a healthy roster of pioneer divers for the foreseeable future.

Ed recently noted, *"Essentially, we are all just divers. Nothing more, nothing less. It is the one common bond that has brought all of us together. So often we get so busy with life and business, we lose focus on our true love: Diving. Yes, the HDSGWS diving is incredible, but just as important are the people. These trips give us a reason to get together with friends and go diving again. How many times do people say "some day"... but many times "some day" never comes. I just want people to step back, get together with their old friends and just go diving. Guadalupe is that rare place where divers of all ages can still do it and do it safely."*

The *Nautilus Explorer* consistently gets rave reviews even from our internationally jaded divers who experience liveaboard diving around the world. With a top class Canadian based crew and some of the world's top shark wranglers, all HDSGWS trips have been accident free. The high quality of the boat and its crew combined with the camaraderie of any of the HDSGWS expeditions has seen numerous HDS members return for another trip. Some three or four times. It is that good!

With the consistent success of the *Nautilus Explorer*, and 23 years experience running liveaboard charters with four different boats, owner Captain Mike is currently commissioning a new state-of-the-art 140 foot ship: The *Nautilus Belle Amie*. Mike has expressed his excitement and enthusiasm to make the new ship available for additional fund raising HDS trips. This effectively doubles the number of guests that HDS can take out at one time on these HDSGWS expeditions and potentially some other bucket list trips.

The immediate future has HDSGWS 2014 being hosted by Dr. Sylvia Earle on October 19-24, and *Sea Hunt* actress Miss Zale Parry on October 24-29. For availability on these two expeditions or to get your name on the information list for future expeditions contact Ed at [ed@stetsondiving.com](mailto:ed@stetsondiving.com).

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# Capt. Louis Sorcho's Great Deep Sea Divers

*The Most Scientific, Instructive and Interesting Entertainment on Earth*

By Leslie Leaney

Students of American diving history will no doubt be familiar with the name of Captain Louis Sorcho, who was a much celebrated, and promoted, diver in the late 1800s and early 1900s. Part of his career centered around his diving exhibition in which he billed himself as "The Champion Deep Sea Diver of the World." This title has always amused me as in modern day terms it would imply that there had been some form of contest with various losers but only one winner, who would be the Champion. It is hard to imagine a World Cup of deep sea diving with divers from various nations competing against each other for the title of World Champion.

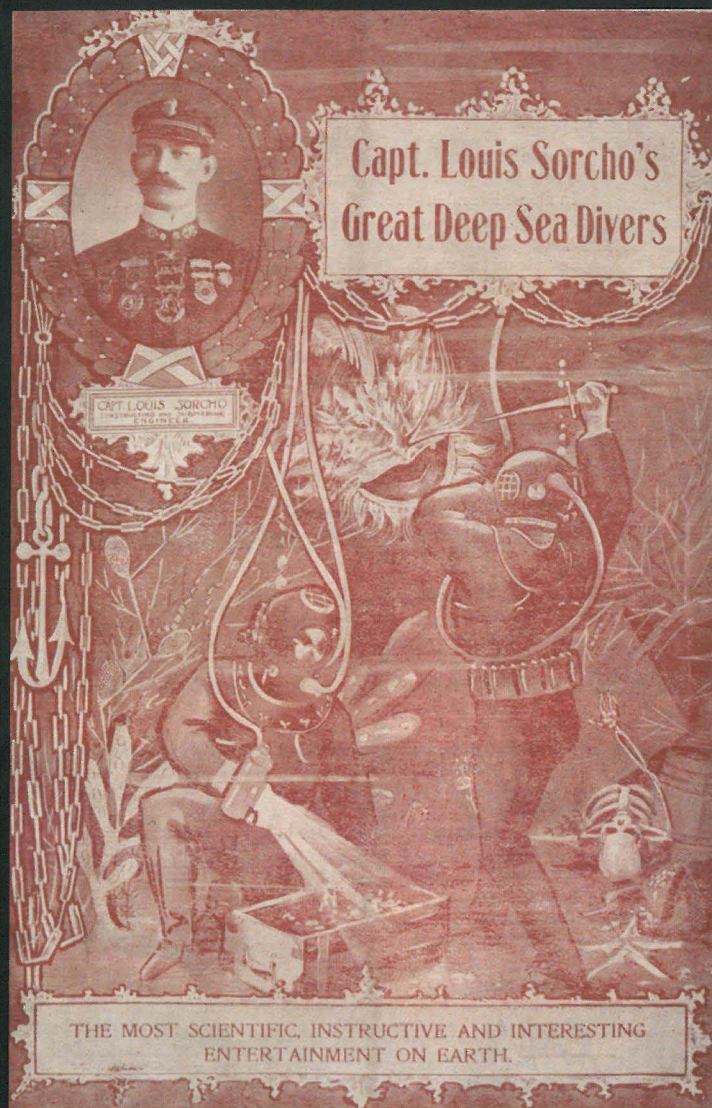
But I digress. Back to the history.

To assist in promoting his exhibition and career, several post cards featuring Captain Sorcho in uniform, and also in diving gear, were printed. One of his better-known appearances was at the 1899 Electrical Show at Madison Square Garden in Manhattan, New York, and this was referred to in Janice Raber's article *History Rings Out*, in issue number 62 of the *Journal*. It would seem a bit of a stretch to have a diving exhibition at an electrical show of that period, but Sorcho made that connection by featuring a diver's telephone and most probably a diver's lamp.

Documentation on his work is difficult to find, but one source is the weekly booklet *The Great Round World*, which was published in New York, and which was available every Thursday for five cents. Starting in May, 1899, the booklet ran a series of short articles detailing the Captain's diving equipment. The content of these short articles appears to be based upon the small 20-page booklet that we are featuring here. This illustrated booklet features an image of Captain Sorcho on the cover beneath which is noted that he is a "Constructing and Submarine Engineer." In the text of the first photo caption the word "Electrical" is added to these credentials, which leads me to believe that this booklet may well have been published for his 1899 Electrical Show exhibition, and later exhibitions.

The cover illustration shows two divers engaged in recovering treasure and fighting a deep-sea monster, two enterprises that, given the very little media coverage of a diver's actual daily tasks, the general public might well expect to be the regular chores of a diver.

The content details the Captain's diving equipment, which appears to be manufactured by A.J. Morse & Son of Boston, and supplies some details of the Captain's diving career. In keeping with his status as the Champion Deep Sea Diver of the World it states that he is "ready at any and



all times to dive deeper and remain under water longer than any other man, or forfeit \$10,000." The details of his diving equipment are informative, although the 122 lb. weight belt would seem to be a little over weight. But this not a review of the booklet so I shall leave you to discover the content yourself.

As the layout of the booklet does not loan itself to easy reproduction in the *Journal*, it has been transcribed, and then laid out for ease of reading. The full content is reproduced here and includes the original period spelling of some words and the original punctuation. I hope you enjoy this glimpse into American diving history from the late 1890's.

*Original booklet courtesy Leslie Leaney Archives.  
Transcribed by David Goulard.*



# *The Bottom of the Sea*

There's wondrous wealth to man unknown  
At the bottom of the sea,  
Where stately ships on Neptune's throne  
Are rolling where the sun ne'er shone,  
In silent grandeur there alone,  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Mermaids dwell in caverns bright,  
Jewels unknown flash their light,  
And untold gold is hid from sight,  
At the bottom of the sea.

Huge anchors buried in golden sand,  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Sunken junks from China's strand,  
'Mid old ship's splendid timbers stand,  
Destruction dwells on every hand,  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Sightless fishes swim about  
The bleaching bones, and in and out  
The skulls of men, once brave, no doubt,  
At the bottom of the sea.

The countless thousands sleeping there,  
At the bottom of the sea.  
The sailor, lover, maiden fair,  
Who in the depths her jewels wear,  
Now rest in peace, without a care,  
At the bottom of the sea.  
Some are there well sewn in sail,  
Ancient warriors clad in mail;  
But one returns to tell the tale  
Of the bottom of the sea.

The diver, a mortal, like those that sleep  
At the bottom of the sea.  
An humble hero of the deep,  
In sunken vessels' hulls doth creep  
To wrest the golden treasure heap  
From the bottom of the sea.  
In armor helmet, shoes of lead,  
He braves those awful depths of dread,  
The living 'mongst the millions dead,  
At the bottom of the sea.

Dedicated to CAPT. LOUIS SORCHO -  
By E. D. H.



*Capt. Louis Sorcho, Constructing Electrical and Sub-Marine Engineer,  
with his diving gear, the most complete apparatus in existence.*

## **PREFACE**

To the average individual, unacquainted with the art of deep sea diving and the mysteries of the ocean away down beneath its surface, divers are sort of super-human creatures often read about, but seldom seen. How they exist in the ocean's depths, the queer costumers they are compelled to wear, the strange sensations they experience, the wonderful sights they see, the desperate risks they take, and the manner in which they work beneath the water, have heretofore all been a sealed volume to the general public.

In presenting this little book to our patrons, it is our object to enlighten them on these subjects and given them some idea, at least, of the life of a diver.

The example of the intelligent daring is never lost on the world. The mastery of human beings over the material world is evident on every side, but too often are they themselves slaves to lesser things. With skill and courage, with caution and daring, with full knowledge of the danger, but with complete control over himself, this man has accomplished what no other man has ever dared to attempt. Fears! what are they? Coward thoughts. See Richard cowering in his tent. See infants crying in the dark. See here a man who has braved the thousand deaths that await the diver; who has calmly, yet courageously, ventured in the ocean's depths, with only the fishes and the thousands awaiting the day when the sea shall give up its dead, for companions, kept himself in perfect control and invaded the mystic depths as a conqueror, master alike of element and himself. Heroism is a medieval thought; daring a classic record. Today society languishes, passion chills, the spirit of adventure dies, the glory of arms is stilled by peace congresses, and human beings dwindle into a part of simple mechanism. Four-fifths of the dangers of life are as trifles, if met with courage, resolution and common sense.

Capt. Sorcho is ready at any and all times to dive deeper and remain under water longer than any other man, or forfeit \$10,000.

My armor is of the latest improved pattern, with telephone, electric search light, and many other up-to-date attachments invented and used exclusively by me. The scenes presented are exactly as they occur in the diver's life at the ocean's bottom, and the exhibition cannot fail to instruct and amuse both the old and young.

*Trusting it may meet with your kind approval, I am,*

*Very sincerely yours,*

**CAPT. LOUIS SORCHO,**

*Champion Deep Sea Diver of the World*



## HISTORY OF THE DEEP SEA DIVING

Just how far back the art of submarine diving dates is a matter of conjecture, but until the invention of the present armor and helmet, in 1839, work and exploration under water was, at best, imperfect, and could only be pursued in a very limited degree. The armor of today consist of a rubber and canvas suit, socks, trousers and shirt in one, a copper breast-plate or collar, a copper helmet, iron-soled shoes, and a belt of leaden weights to sink the diver.

The helmet is made of tinned copper, with three circular glasses, one in front and one on either side, with guards in front to protect them. The front eye-piece is made to unscrew and enable the diver to receive or give instructions without removing the helmet. One or more outlet valves are placed at the back or side of the helmet to allow the vitiated air to escape. These valves only open outwards by working against a spiral spring, so that no water can enter. The inlet valve is at the back of the helmet, and the air on entry is directed by three channels running along the top of the helmet to points above the eye-pieces, enabling the diver to always inhale fresh air, whilst condensation on the glass is avoided. The helmet is secured to the breastplate below by a segmental screw-bayonet joint, securing attachment by one-eighth of a turn. The junction between the water-proof dress and the breastplate is made water-tight by means of studs, brass plates and wing-nuts. A life or signal-line enables the diver to communicate with those above. The air-pipe is made of vulcanized india-rubber, with galvanized iron wire imbedded.

The cost of a complete diving outfit ranges from \$750 to \$1,000. The weight of the armor and attachments worn by the diver is 256 pounds, divided as follows: Helmet and breastplate, 58 pounds; belt of lead weights, 122 pounds; rubber dress or suit, 19 pounds; iron soled shoes, 27 pounds each.

The greatest depth reached by any diver was 204 feet, at which depth there was a pressure of 88½ pounds per square inch on his body. The area exposed of the average diver in armor is 720 inches, which would have made the diver at that depth sustain a pressure of 66,960 pounds, or over 33 tons.

The air which sustains the diver's life below the surface is pumped from above by a powerful pump, which must be kept constantly at work while the diver is down. A stoppage of the pump a single instant, while the diver is in deep water, would result in his almost instant death from the pressure of the water outside. Only persons of perfect health and physique can pursue the calling of a diver. It would be suicidal for a human being not of perfect health and physique to attempt the feat.

The water pressure on the diver is as follows:

20 feet . . . 8½ lbs.	120 feet . . . 52¼ lbs.
30 feet . . . 12¾ lbs.	130 feet . . . 56½ lbs.
40 feet . . . 17¼ lbs.	140 feet . . . 60¾ lbs.
50 feet . . . 21¾ lbs.	150 feet (The Limit) 65¼ lbs.
60 feet . . . 26¼ lbs.	160 feet . . . 69¾ lbs.
70 feet . . . 30½ lbs.	170 feet . . . 74 lbs.
80 feet . . . 34¾ lbs.	180 feet . . . 78 lbs.
90 feet . . . 39 lbs.	190 feet . . . 82 ¼ lbs.
100 feet . . . 43½ lbs.	204 feet . . . 88½ lbs.

Before a man attempts diving he should be examined by a physician or medical officer. Men coming under any of the following classifications should not, under any circumstances, attempt a dive: Men with short necks, full-blooded and florid complexions; men who suffer from headache, are slightly deaf, or have recently had a running from the ear; men who have at any time spat or coughed up blood; men who have been subject to palpitation of the heart; men who are very pale, whose lips are more blue than red, who are subject to cold hands and feet; men who have what is commonly known as a poor circulation; men who have blood-shot eyes and a high color on the cheeks, by the interlacement of numerous small blood-vessels, which are distinct; men who are hard drinkers and have suffered from any severe disease, or who have had rheumatism or sunstroke.

The dangers of diving are manifold, and so risky is the calling that there are only a few divers in the United States. The cheapest of them command \$10 a day for four or five hours work, and many of them get \$50 or \$60 for the same term of labor under water.



*The First Step in Dressing - Putting on the Dress or Suit. Weight, 19 Pounds.*



*Hauling Up Dress and Adjusting Belt.*



*Ready for the Breastplate.*





*Making the Water-Tight Joint between Breastplate and Dress.*



*Putting On Chafing Gear or Overalls.*



*Putting On Iron-Soled Shoes - 27 pounds each.*

The greatest danger that besets the diver is not, as would doubtless be supposed, the monsters of the deep, such as sharks, etc., or of getting his air-hose entangled or fouled so as to cut off his air supply. It is the risk he runs every time he dives of rupturing a blood-vessel by the excessively compressed air he is compelled to breathe. Many divers have been hauled up dead in their armor from no apparent cause, when they had been plentifully supplied with air. In each case the rupture of a blood-vessel in the brain by the air pressure had caused a fatal stroke of apoplexy. Divers have also died of fright in the armor. In one instance, a diver at work in the hold of a sunken vessel, got his air-hose so fouled it was impossible to haul him up. Plenty of fresh air, however, was supplied to him, but he was held a prisoner for five hours, until another diver was procured to go down and free him. When he was hauled up he was a corpse. Fright had killed him. The diver is also subject to attacks by sharks, sword-fish, devil-fish and other voracious monsters of the ocean's depths. To defend himself against them, he carries a double-edge knife, as sharp as a razor, which screws into a water-tight brass sheath, but is always ready for instant use. It is the diver's sole weapon of defense.

#### **A FEW OF CAPT. SORCHO'S ADVENTURES**

During his fourteen years services as a deep sea diver and submarine engineer, Capt. Sorcho, who in his risky calling stands without an equal, has had many thrilling experiences and has braved dangers and encountered perils which fall to the lot of but few men who survive to tell the tale. Yet with calm courage, cautions daring, unfailing judgment and indomitable pluck, he has preserved his life and limb under circumstances which would have paralyzed with terror even others of his dangerous profession, and has accomplished successfully what others dare not attempt.

The thousands who witness his realistic exhibitions, so strikingly illustrative of the life of a diver, will be interested with a short account of a few of his adventures.

As risky a piece of submarine work which a diver ever attempted, which resulted in the death of one and the severe injury of two other divers, was successfully performed by Capt. Sorcho in the narrow submarine tunnel of a reservoir, which was filled with shafts and cog-wheel gearing, for the opening and closing of the valves that regulate the supply of the water-works. A cog-wheel had worked loose and deranged the entire mechanism, and the space was so confined that the first diver who attempted it in his bulky armor got his air-hose and life-line entangled in the machinery, and died of fright and heart failure before he could be released. The diver who released the corpse came near sharing his fate, and received severe internal injuries from being jammed in among the cogs. The third diver who attempted the task of peril, fouled his air-hose and was black in the face from suffocation when he was hauled up. Capt. Sorcho was then sent for, and offered a large sum to repair the derangement. Being possessed of a gear equipped with a telephone of his own invention, he was able to give orders and receive instructions with such good effect that the task was soon finished.

While diving in the South Pacific Ocean for the recovery of treasure from a sunken steamship, Capt. Sorcho was attacked by a giant octopus, or devil-fish. This most dreaded of all monsters of the deep attacked the Captain while he was at work, and wound his slimy tentacles about him in an embrace of death. With the tomahawk-shaped, razor-edged hatchet he always carries in his belt when doing deep-sea diving, he chopped off the serpent-like tentacles as fast as they wound about him, and finally, by a well-directed blow, split in twain the creature's head, thus ending the thrilling battle at the bottom of the sea.

Humorous scenes do not play much of a part on the ocean's bottom, and the sublime and awe-inspiring are far more in evidence there than the ludicrous, yet even beneath the waves there are laughable scenes once in a while. Capt. Sorcho played the leading role in one off the coast of Florida. He had been engaged to inspect a sunken vessel, and when he arrived on the scene in a wrecking steamer, discovered a number of young Indian sponge-divers, who descend to considerable depths, wearing only a loin cloth, diving down from canoes beside the sunken vessel, trying to pick up something of value. The wreck was lying close in to the beach, in water not very deep and as clear as crystal. The natives paid little attention to the arrival of the wrecking steamer, and did not notice Capt. Sorcho descend, until suddenly, what seemed to them to be a horrible human shaped monster, with an immense head of glistening copper and three big, round, glassy eyes, came walking around the vessel's bow and made a low salaam to them. That was



enough. They shot surfaceward like skyrockets, leaped into their canoes, rowed away like mad and took to the woods, nearly scared to death, while the Captain, away down below, had quite a little laugh all to himself.

#### FEATS OF DIVERS

Millions of dollars worth of property has been recovered from the ocean's depths by divers. One of the greatest achievements in this line was by the famous English diver, Lambert, who recovered vast treasure from the "Alfonso XII," a Spanish mail steamer belonging to the Lopez Line, which sunk off Point Gando, Grand Canary, in 26½ fathoms of water. The salvage party was dispatched by the underwriters in May, 1885, the vessel having £100,000 in specie on board. For nearly six months the operations were persevered in before the divers could reach the treasure-room beneath the three decks. Two divers lost their lives in the vain attempt, the pressure of water being fatal. Mr. Gorman recovered \$90,000 from the wreck, and got \$4,500 for doing it.

One of the most difficult operations ever performed by a diver, was the recovering of the treasure sunk in the steamship "Malabar," off Galle. On this occasion the large iron plates, half an inch thick, had to be cut away from the mail room, and then the diver had to work through nine feet of sand. The whole of the specie on board this vessel - upward of \$1,500,000—was saved, as much as \$80,000 having been gotten out in one day.

It is an interesting fact that from time to time expeditions have been fitted out, and companies formed, with the sole intention of searching for buried treasure beneath the sea. Again and again have expeditions left New York and San Francisco in the certainty of recovering tons of bullion sunk off the Brazilian coast, or lying undisturbed in the mud of the Rio de la Plata.

At the end of 1885, the large steamer Imbus, belonging to the P. & O. Co., sank off Trincomalee, having on board a very valuable East India cargo, together with a large amount of specie. This was another case of a fortune found in the sea, for a very large amount of treasure was recovered.

Another wreck, from which a large sum of gold coin and bullion was recovered by divers, was that of the French ship "L'Orient." She is stated to have had on board specie to the value of no less than \$3,000,000, besides other treasure.

A parallel case to "L'Orient," is that of the "Lutine," a warship of thirty - two guns, wrecked off the coast of Holland. This vessel sailed from the Yarmouth Roads with an immense quantity of treasure for the Texel. In the course of the day it came on to blow a heavy gale; the vessel was lost and went to pieces. Salvage operations by divers, during eighteen months, resulted in the recovery of \$400,000 in specie.

Another remarkable case of recovery of specie is recorded when sixty-two chests of dollars, amounting to the value of about \$350,000, was recovered from the "Abergavenny," sunk some years previously at Weymouth, England.

A very notable case—not only for the amount of treasure on board, but also for the big "windfall" for the salvors—is that of the "Thetis," a British frigate, wrecked off the coast of Brazil, with \$800,000 in bullion on board. The hull went to pieces, leaving the treasure at the bottom in five or six fathoms of water. The admiral of the Brazil station and the captains and crews of four sloops-of-war were engaged for eighteen months with divers in recovering the treasure. The service was attended with great skill, labor and danger, and four divers lives were lost.

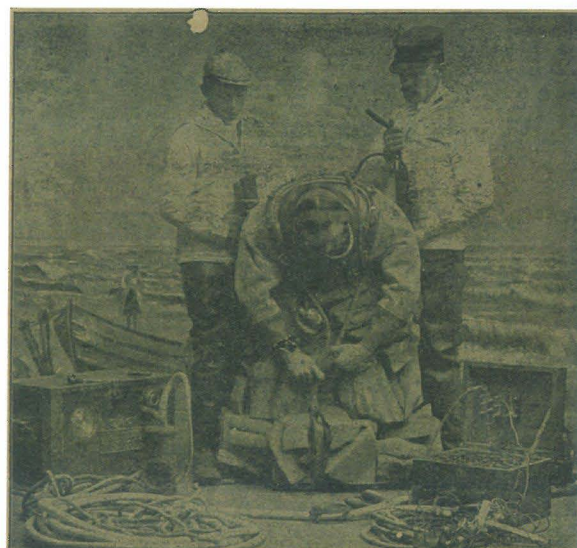
A remarkable case of money having been recovered deserves a passing notice. It was that of the finding of 3,800 sovereigns under a pier at Melbourne, part of 5,000 missing from the steamer "Iberia."

Some Danish speculators have reaped a harvest of golden grain from the depths of the sea which washes the coast of Jutland. Some years ago the British steamship "Helen," laden with copper, foundered. All her cargo has been recovered. The steamer "Westdale," laden with 2,000 tons of iron, went down off the Danish coast in 1888. Nearly the whole cargo, her machinery and a great part of her fitting have been saved by Jutland divers.

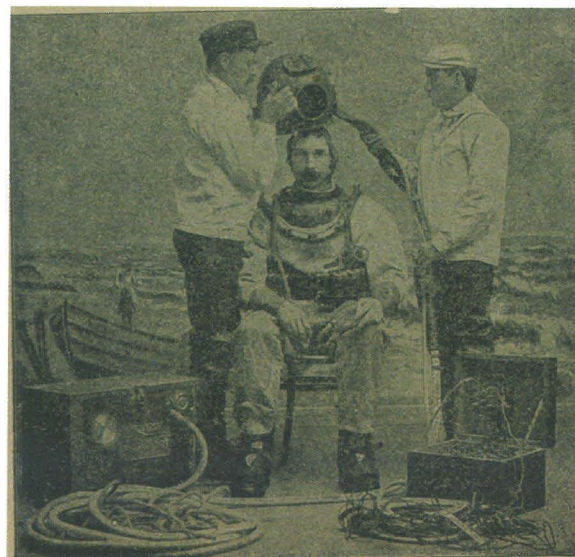
Dredging operations carried on at Santander, Spain, resulted in the discovery of the well-preserved wreck of a warship of the fifteenth or sixteenth century. She must have been in her present position for four hundred years, and was partly covered by a deposit of sand and mud. Divers brought up guns which bore the united arms of Castile and Aragon, the scroll of Isabella, or the crown and initial of Ferdinand. The ship was probably employed as a transport, and inasmuch as some of the arms are of French and Italian make, it is supposed she formed part of the unfortunate expedition against Naples under Gonzalo de Cordoba. ♣



*Ready for Helmet - Weight 51 Pounds.*



*Putting on Belt of Lead Weights - 122 pounds.*



*Putting On Receiver of  
Submarine Telephone and Knife.*



# The Diver

A dismal life of danger mine  
 Down in the dark and murky brine,  
 Amidst the wrecks of foundered barks,  
 Watched by the hungry eyes of sharks;  
 I wander 'round a warship's keel,  
 Through netted mass of riven steel,  
 Bent iron, shattered gratings, coal  
 And upturned hatches, death's patrol;  
 'Mongst monster guns, whose voice no more  
 Shall bellow forth to foes on shore;  
 'Midst mazy nets of wandering wires,  
 To gaze upon extinguished fires;  
 And, while my eyes in silence gloats,  
 A grewsome corpse before me floats;  
 Oh, horror! Should the slender thread,  
 That joins me with sweet life o'erhead,  
 Be but entangled 'midst it all,  
 This diver's suit would be my pall!  
 Of canvas strong and rubber built,  
 To turn the sea and slimy salt;  
 Socks, trousers, shirt, in one are made,  
 And shoes with soles of iron weighed;  
 About my head a metal helm—  
 A knight, indeed, of Neptune's realm!  
 One window round before the face  
 Invites the light within my case;  
 Upon my belt hangs weights of lead  
 To sink me down among the dead;  
 A hatchet and a two-edged knife  
 To chop the ship and guard my life;  
 Upon a friend I trust for air,  
 My life hangs on his watchful care.  
 When all's prepared, I backward creep  
 And slowly drop into the deep;  
 With painful pressure now the blood  
 Pours toward my brain, a rushing flood;  
 I cannot think, and in my ears  
 A buzzing roar fills me with fears;  
 If heart should fail or artery  
 Burst its wall, a corpse I'd be.  
 All, all is quite; not a breath  
 Disturbs this awful home of death;  
 And here I prowls in constant fear  
 That something dreadful will appear;  
 Time seems to fly, and ere I know,  
 I'm drawn above; whale-like I blow,  
 And o'er it all there rests the thought  
 That full of weal my work is fraught;  
 For on the sights which I behold  
 The fate of nations may be told  
 Oh! happy he who from his home,  
 With all its joys, need never roam;  
 Who there with daughters, sons and wife  
 In blessed sunshine spends his life.  
 Ah! mothers, sisters, pray for me,  
 The lonely diver, 'neath the sea!



Ready for the Descent, Except the Face Plate.  
 Total Weight of the Entire Gear, 246 Pounds.

Dedicated to Capt. Louis Sorcho for his noble work  
 on the Battleship Maine, in recovering 132 bodies.  
 --By E. H. D.





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210 Ft. Caisson Dive



**1959**  
Andre Galerne  
Founder

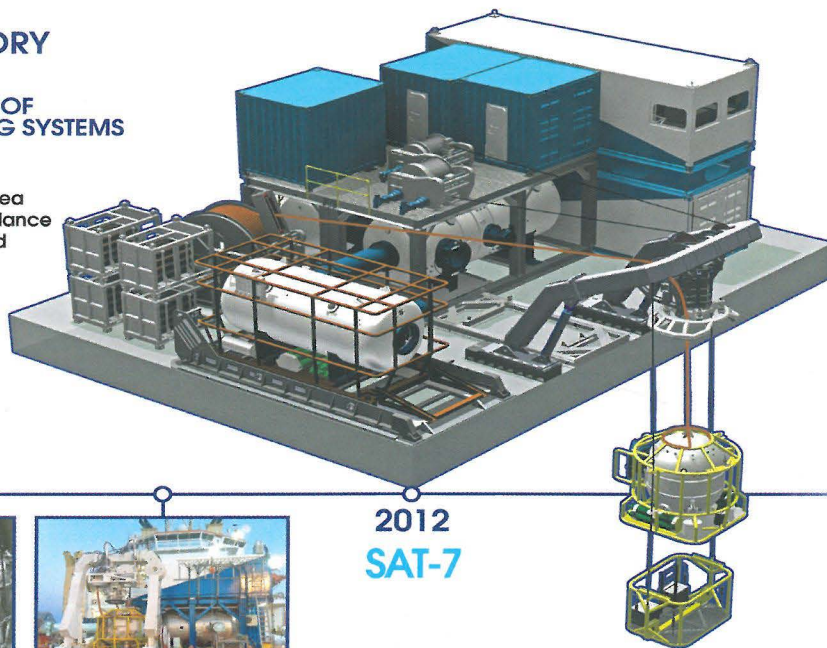


AIRCO Experimental Unit



SAT-5 Aboard the  
Normad Clipper

**2012**  
**SAT-7**

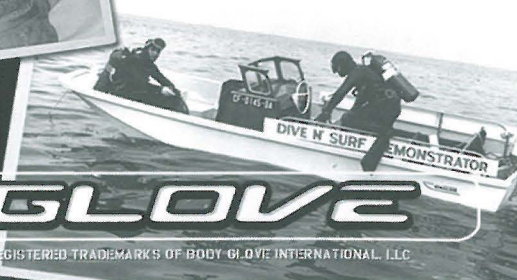


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presents

## THE SUBMARINE LENS

# Bolex Paillard

*Underwater filmmaking at its best!*

By Sid Macken



A beautiful Borex Paillard underwater motion picture camera housing owned by Pete West of Australia.  
Photo courtesy of Pete West.

In 2008 a group of HDS members toured Southern France, visiting significant sites relating to diving history. We were treated with a visit to the Musée Archéologique in Saint-Raphael, France. As we entered the museum, our guide, Philippe Rousseau, said, "You will see things here you've never seen before."

Philippe was right.

Off to the side of displays of salvaged amphoras and other archaeological artifacts were a couple of small rooms devoted to diving history. Although much of the displayed equipment was from early diving pioneer Yves Le Prieur, another name frequently appeared on pieces of diving gear and placards: Jayet.

Among several items bearing Jayet's name were three camera housings. Looking at them closely, I noticed that they bore striking similarities to the Swiss-made Paillard Borex motion picture camera housing.

Imagine my surprise to find later that what I saw in France were, indeed, the housings on which the Borex design was based!

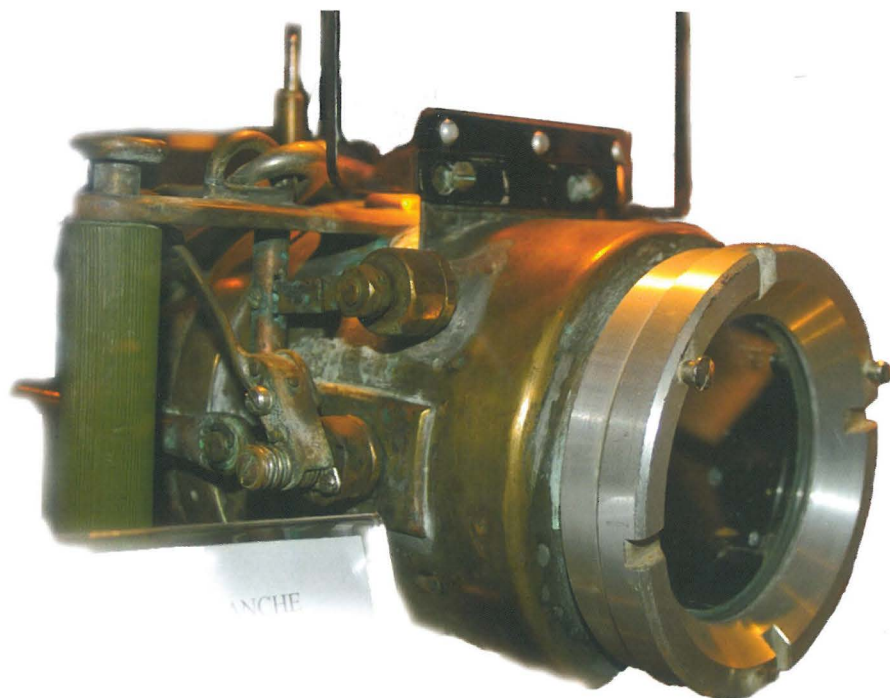
### ORIGINS OF BOREX

The Borex company was formed in 1927 by Jacques Bogopolsky to manufacture professional and home-movie motion picture cameras. In 1930, Borex was bought by Paillard. By 1935, the company was producing the H16, a 16mm camera which was followed in 1938 by the H8, the same camera body but built for 8mm film.

Bolex cameras became highly regarded by professional filmmakers and very popular with documentary filmmakers, artists, and students. The versatile cameras were capable of producing in-camera special effects, time-lapse, and even stereo films. Borex produced a wide variety of accessories to make all these capabilities possible.

In today's world of digital cameras, it is sometimes hard to remember that the charm of the Borex, and other spring-driven movie cameras, was that you could go to the remotest corners of the earth, up in the air, or under the sea, and shoot theatrical quality films, while never needing to go near an electrical outlet. This, along with Borex's famed durability, precision, versatility, and optical superiority, made the H16 a favorite with underwater filmmakers. It just needed an equally high quality underwater housing.





## DAVID JAYET

Enter David L. Jayet, a Swiss inventor and diver. Jayet held several patents for diving equipment, including a dual-diaphragm, two-hose scuba regulator, a quick release buckle, swim fins, and a camera housing for the H16.

Paillard Bolex bought the license to manufacture Jayet's housing design, making their cameras available to underwater cinematographers beginning in 1955.

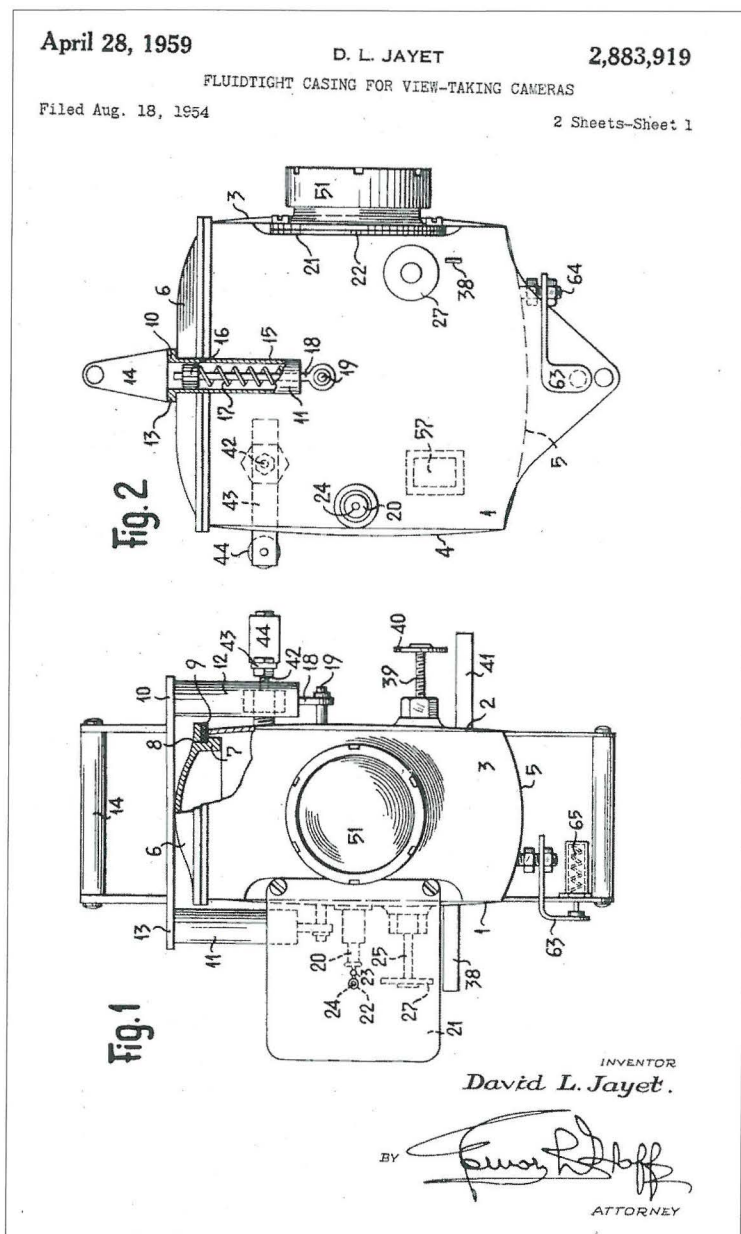
Constructed of cast aluminum, the housing provided access to aperture control, the spring drive motor, footage counter, and shutter release. A sport finder was mounted to the left side of the housing, just above the aperture control, where a traveling indicator was easily within the photographer's view.



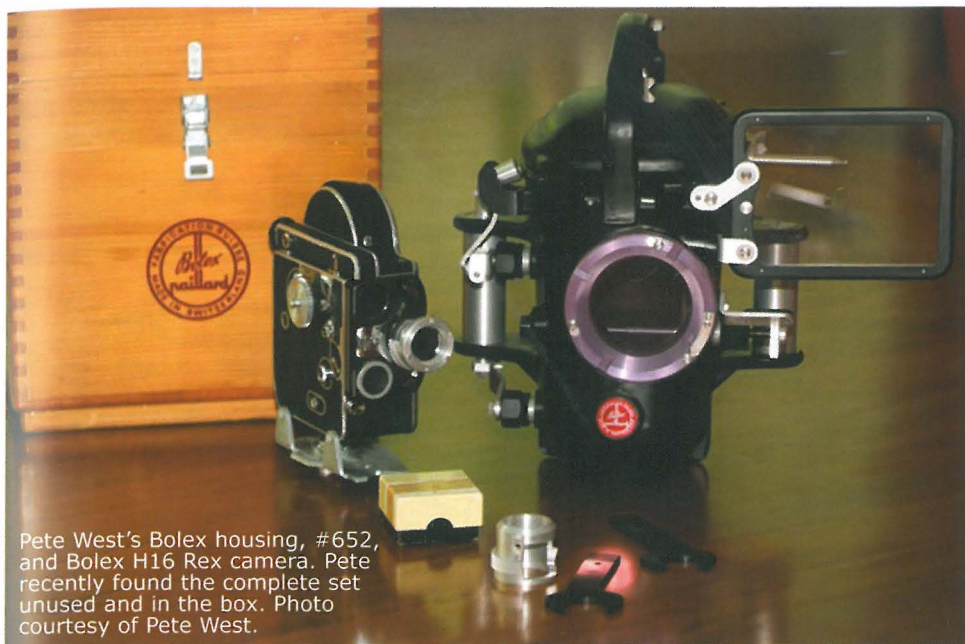
(Above) The Jayet-Bolex housing at the Musee Archéologie in Saint-Raphael, France. Author's collection.

(Upper Left) A camera housing at the Musee Archéologie showing Jayet's patented filter holder. Author's collection.

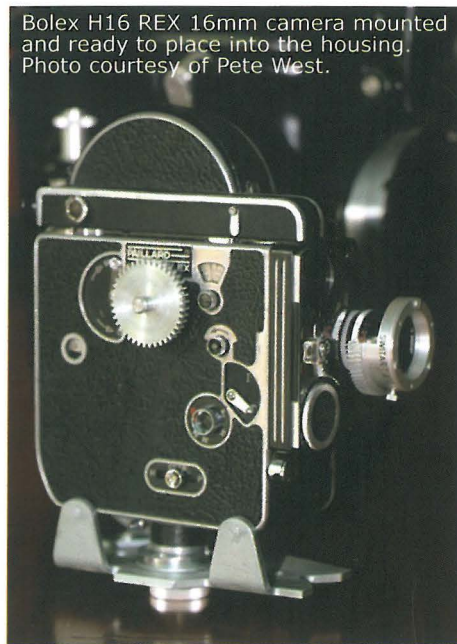
(Left) US patent for the camera housing which was manufactured by Bolex under license David Jayet. Author's collection.



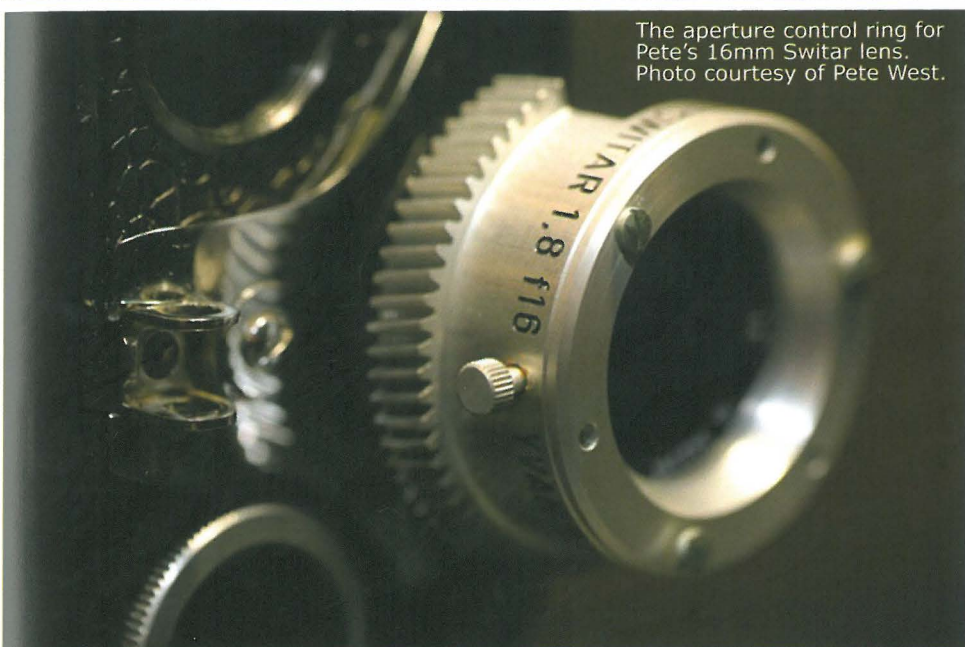




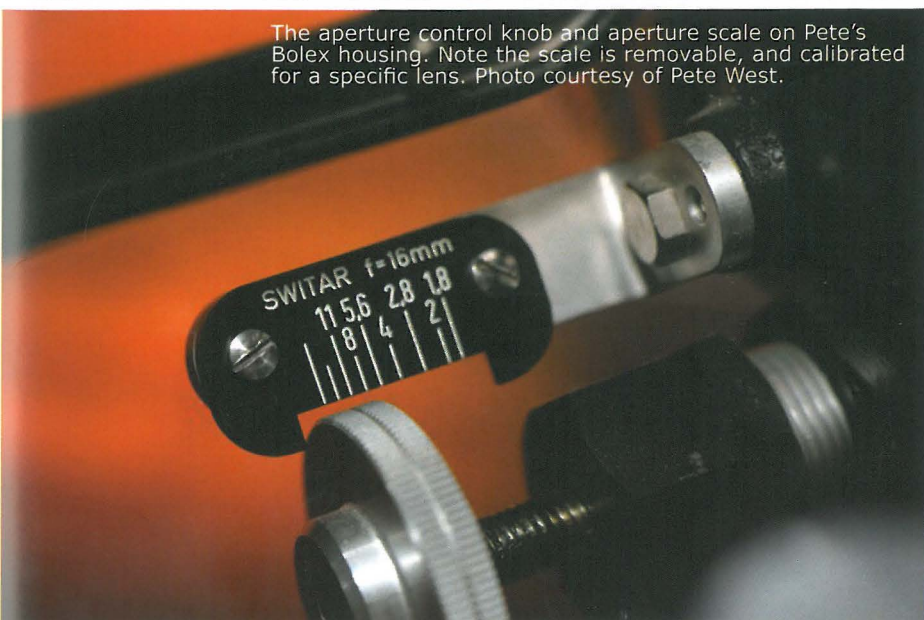
Pete West's Bolex housing, #652, and Bolex H16 Rex camera. Pete recently found the complete set unused and in the box. Photo courtesy of Pete West.



Bolex H16 REX 16mm camera mounted and ready to place into the housing. Photo courtesy of Pete West.



The aperture control ring for Pete's 16mm Switar lens. Photo courtesy of Pete West.



The aperture control knob and aperture scale on Pete's Bolex housing. Note the scale is removable, and calibrated for a specific lens. Photo courtesy of Pete West.

The thumb-operated shutter release was integral to the right side handle. Also on the right side was the foldaway spring-motor crank.

Access to the camera was afforded by a removable lid held in place by a cam-actuated arm which doubled as a carrying handle. External filters could be held in front of the lens (another Jayet patent), and the camera could be removed for film changes and replaced without the use of tools.

The housing was rated to 330 feet of sea water, much deeper than a diver of the 1950s was capable of reaching. At \$430, the housing was within the reach of professional and advanced amateur filmmakers alike.

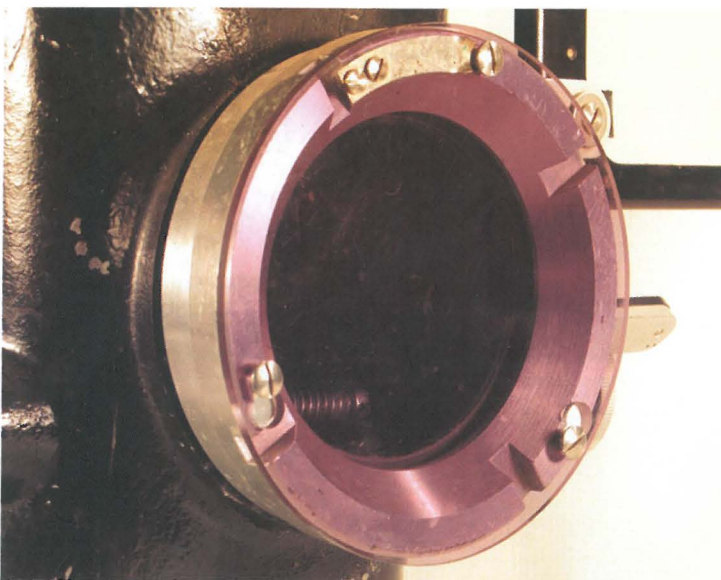
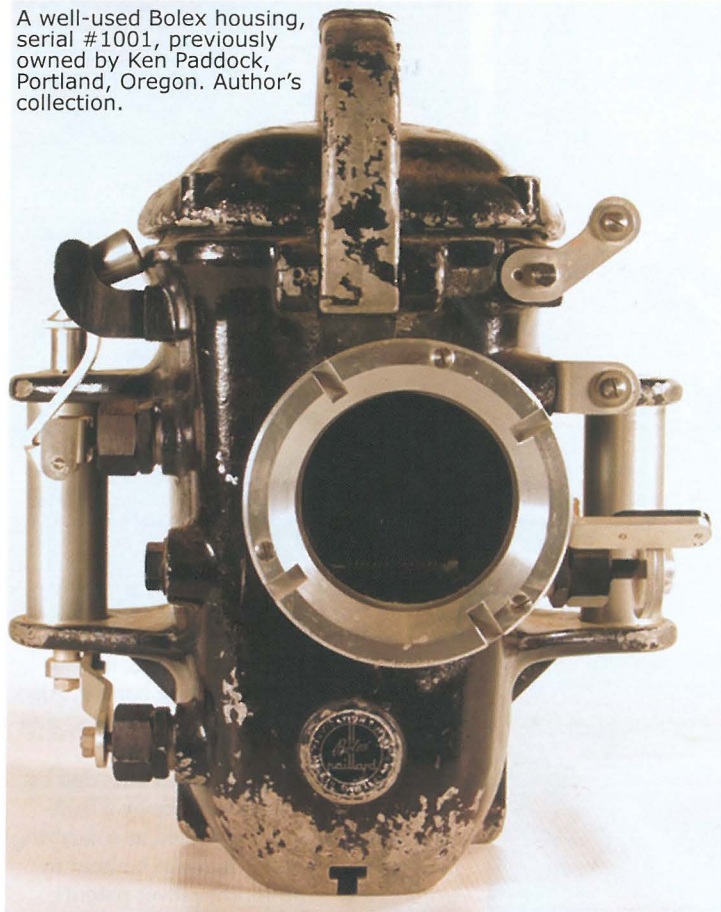
(Below) There were no major changes in the Bolex housing during its production run, which began in 1954 and ran into the 1970s. Photo courtesy of Pete West.

**BOLEX UNDERWATER HOUSING:** Accommodates Bolex H-16 Rex-5, Rex-4, M-5 camera models and is water-tight to depths of 330'. Simple, convenient winding of spring motor. Aperture adjustment can be made while underwater. The housing is equipped with a parallax corrected viewfinder and is supplied with the diaphragm collar for Switar 10mm or 16mm wide angle lenses normally used underwater. Specify lens when ordering. Size: 14" x 13" x 12". Weight: Out of water without camera: 22 lbs.; Immersed, 4 1/2 lbs.



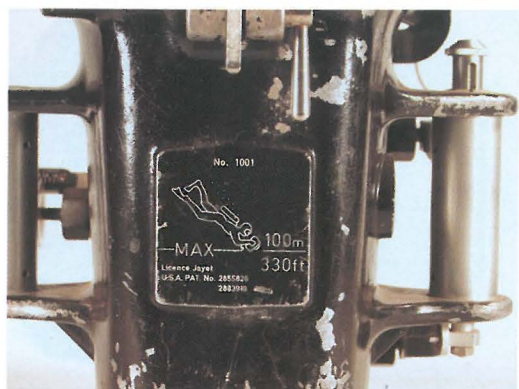


A well-used Bolex housing, serial #1001, previously owned by Ken Paddock, Portland, Oregon. Author's collection.



(Above) Jayet's patented filter holder on the Bolex housing. Author's collection.

(Right) Serial number, license, and patent numbers on Bolex housing, #1001. Author's collection.



## A HISTORIC LEGACY

— The Bolex housing held either the H16 camera with a 10mm wide angle lens or a 16mm normal focal length lens, or the H8 8mm camera with a 5.5mm, 12.5mm, or 13mm lens. The great depth of field of the wide angle lenses made a focus control unnecessary.

A mounting plate secured the camera inside the housing, and a geared collar linked the lens to the aperture control knob. The housing originally sold with a wooden shipping case and an accessory kit, which included wrenches, screw drivers, and filters.

The Bolex housing became the iconic underwater motion picture housing of its time. Its image graced the covers of many issues of *Skin Diver Magazine*, and if Lloyd Bridges' Mike Nelson was not carrying a Rolleimarine housing in a *Sea Hunt* episode, he often was carrying a Bolex housing.

The Bolex underwater camera system served professional and amateur filmmakers, documentarians and scientists for many decades. Although the underwater housing is no longer in Bolex's production line, modern versions of the venerable H16 camera, including spring-driven as well as electric powered models, are still manufactured. It's a filmmaking legacy which dates back nearly 90 years. 📷



Oregon filmmaker Ken Paddock with his trusty Bolex, ca 1970. Author's collection.





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# U.S. Navy Experimental Diving Unit Evaluates New Equipment, Spring 1970

Part 2 by Leslie Leaney

This is the second part of an article from the Spring, 1970 issue of *Faceplate* magazine, and follows on from Part 1 in the prior issue of the *Journal*. Part 1 featured the Kirby Morgan KMB-8 Band Mask, Kirby Morgan VS-1 Venturi Recirculating Unit, the David Clark helmet, the Kirby Morgan Clam Shell Helmet and the DESCO Helmet, or DESCO Pot, as it is often referred to.

I was unable to publish any information on the Kirby Morgan VS-1 Venturi Recirculating Unit that was shown in Part 1, but have since been able to receive some details on it which follow.

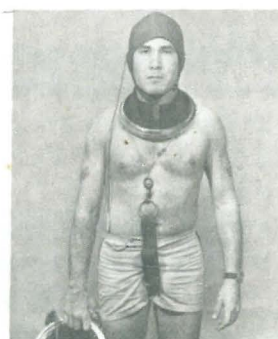
According to a person familiar with the project, the unit was solely for military operations and due to certain sensitive unidentified parts to the design, much of the information is still restricted from public access.

The information I have states that, "the system used the venturi set up from the Kirby Morgan recirculating diving helmet (Ed. a copy model of which is noted in this article as the DESCO Helium Oxygen Helmet) with the CO<sub>2</sub> canister mounted on the chest. Tests proved it to be more efficient, and using less gas on demand than when using the recirculator. The recirculator could have worked much better and been more efficient by reducing the venturi flow since not as much gas flow is required to keep the CO<sub>2</sub> low in an oral nasal as opposed to the volume of a heavy gear helmet. The Navy Experimental Diving Unit decided not to explore the venturi further since the economy and easy use of the demand system was good enough for them at that time."

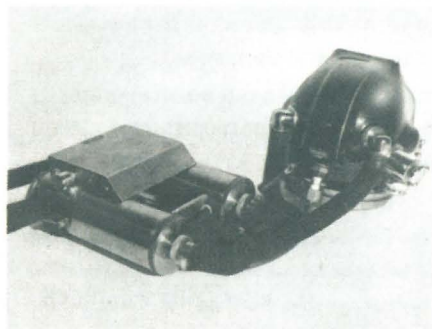




(Continued from page 9)



(Above) The Advance Diving Equipment Co. Helmet . . . is an open-circuit breathing system with a constant flow regulator, and is adaptable to shallow or deep water. Shown here, also, is the communication hat, the helmet having been removed from the neck ring. A mixed gas version is available. The air hat has been in use, under evaluation, by Harbor Clearance Units One and Two.



(Left) The General Aquadyne Helmet . . . manufactured by General Aquadyne, Inc., has an interchangeable neck ring, which makes it adaptable to a wet suit, a dry suit, or a constant volume dry suit. The General Aquadyne Helmet is constructed of reinforced polyester fiberglass, and features polycarbonate ports at the top and front. The frames of the ports are chrome-plated brass castings. This helmet also provides increased viewing, having front and top ports. The head exhaust is adjustable from one-half to two pounds pressure. The helmet is fitted with a 3/8-inch direct flow valve. All plumbing joints are silver soldered. The direct flow inlet to the helmet has a non-return valve attached to it. Ninety-five percent of the mixed gas is immediately returned to the recirculator. This is accomplished by the helmet's intake/exhaust ducts, which supply breathing gas across the faceplate. A special adhesive is used to bond the stainless steel helmet ring to the helmet. The neck ring and its components are also stainless steel. This helmet differs from similar types by its double cylindrical scrubber unit instead of a single flat unit. The double scrubber unit is shown with its cover removed.



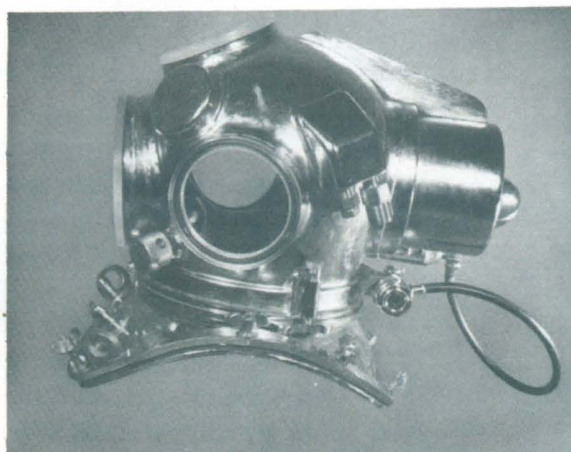
*(Right and immediately below) Mark X Closed Circuit SCUBA . . .*

The Mark X is a closed circuit mixed gas SCUBA produced by the General Electric Co. The Mark X has been successfully swum at depths from the surface to 1000 feet. The pictures immediately below show various views of the Mk X Mod 1. The Mark X uses special oxygen sensors to control the breathing gas mixture and maintain the desired oxygen partial pressure regardless of depth. The gauge with its control for high or low sensoring is shown in the diver's right hand and also in its normal position — secured to the diver's right shoulder strap. The gauge secured to the left wrist serves as a check against the high or low sensors and provides direct readout of the partial pressure of oxygen.



*(Left) The DESCO Helium-Oxygen*

**Helmet . . .** is very similar to the Navy's Mk V Mod 1. The pictures at left show front and side views. The design of this helmet is based on a Japanese styled hat. It is about half the weight of the Mk V Mod 1 Air Helmet, and has a better canister design. Note that the control valves are on the hat instead of the chest. This lighter helmet is relatively easy to put on and permits greater freedom of movement on the surface.



*(Right) The DESCO Deep-Sea*

**Dress . . .** is a design concept also based on a Japanese style. It looks somewhat like our Navy dress, but the fabric is more flexible and about half the weight. The soft foot covering of this suit makes climbing and walking easier. The color of this DESCO dress is orange.



Spring 1970



## THE ADVANCED DIVING EQUIPMENT CO. HELMET

The helmet shown here is the early air model with a large single front port. Later models had a second top port and were widely used in the commercial industry during the 1970s and 1980s. The later style was featured in Bob Martin's 1978 book *The Deep Sea Diver: Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow*, which noted "It was originally developed by George Swindell, and manufactured by Advanced Diving Equipment & Manufacturing Company. Beckman Instrument Company later joined Advanced so that it is known as either a Swindell, Advanced, or Beckman helmet." More detailed information can be found at [www.divingheritage.com](http://www.divingheritage.com). The helmet and components are still available from Bob Johnson at Able Marine at [www.2000airhat.com/1.html](http://www.2000airhat.com/1.html)

## THE GENERAL AQUADYNE HELMET

The company was based in Santa Barbara, California, and they produced this model in 1969, the year before this article was published. As seen, it already had a top port. Martin noted, "Its plastic shell is slightly smaller than that of the Advanced helmet but contains most of the same functional features. Both air supply valve and exhaust valve are located on the right side of the helmet. The neck joint is a combination bayonet lock and split-ring constricting clamp. The Aquadyne AH-2 helmet weighs about 25 pounds but is positively buoyant underwater. A jockstrap system must therefore be used to hold the neck ring in place. Because the helmet is held in place by the neck ring, the diver's head is free to turn inside the AH-2. However, just as with the Advanced helmet, lateral vision is restricted unless the upper shoulders are rotated to turn the helmet and neck ring assembly as a unit." More information can be found at [www.divingheritage.com](http://www.divingheritage.com). General Aquadyne was acquired by DIVEX, who still manufacture the AH5 free flow helmet. [www.divexglobal.com](http://www.divexglobal.com)

## MARK X CLOSED CIRCUIT SCUBA

Rebreathers are not my field and the following information on the Mark X was provided by Tracy Robinette and Michael Menduno: Right after building the General Electric Mark X, the engineering team left G.E. to form Biomarine, and produced the Biomarine CCR 1000, the predecessor of the US Navy's Mark 15 and 16. The G.E. Mark X was used in the Tektite II, underwater habitat project, and a model is on display at the Man In The Sea Museum in Panama City Beach, Florida. During Tektite II General Electric Mark 10 Mod III rebreather units were used and although capable of 12 hours continuous operation, rebreather dives were limited to about four hours each as a safety precaution.

## THE DESCO HELIUM OXYGEN HELMET

The two images shown here are of two different helmets. The front image is of a DESCO recirculator and the side image is of either an original Kirby Morgan recirculator, or, the Japanese Yokohama copy of the Kirby Morgan recirculator.

The DESCO recirculator is a rare helmet, and it is possible that only one was built by the company and was sent to EDU for testing. The placement of the large control valve at the upper right side of the bonnet is odd. If DESCO had copied the original Kirby model it would be positioned on the right side below the face port, in the area where what appears to be the exhaust control is shown, similar to a USN Mark V.

This DESCO model was actually based on the Lindbergh Hammar design which in turn had copied most of the Kirby design. The claim that this helmet is "very similar" to the USN Mark V seems to be a bit stretched. Perhaps they meant that it was a traditional style helmet of copper and brass instead of the newer lightweight helmets they were evaluating. In comparing the weight of the helmet to a USN Mark V, it seems they mistook an "Air" helmet for the Mark V "Helium" helmet, which weighs just over 100lbs and has a canister. However, it would seem that the Navy were interested in seeing what options there might be to replace the bulky USN Helium Mark V, in service since WWII.

It is possible that they requested that DESCO build one for evaluation for various reasons. By 1970 Kirby Morgan were deeply engrossed with developing lightweight swim-gear helmets and masks, and had given Yokohama of Japan the rights to produce their helium recirculator helmet. That company produced many of them but as they were Japanese, it is almost certain that they could not be considered as a vendor for the US Navy. There may also have been some sentiment among naval personnel against the company as WWII had only ended 25 years earlier. The USN kept the Mark V Helium helmet until the early 1980s when it was replaced by the Mark XII system. Yokohama continued to make helium recirculators into the early 1990s, at which time the company ceased trading. Better images of the DESCO Helium Oxygen Helmet can be found in *A History of DESCO*, by Leslie Leaney, *Journal of Diving History*, issue 69.

## THE DESCO DEEP-SEA DRESS

As noted in the description, this dress was very similar to dresses coming in from Japan. The Japanese dresses had a very large market in American fisheries and commercial oil field diving and were popular from the 1950s through to the advent of the lightweight helmet which eventually replaced the standard heavy gear diving dress. 🐙



# Ads Across the Ocean

*By Leslie Leaney*

All images courtesy Leslie Leaney Archives.

In this issue of Vintage Scuba we are going to visit some of the adverts in French and English magazines from the 1950s and 1960s. The sport of recreational diving principally developed along the French Mediterranean coast in the late 1940s and blossomed during the 1950s. Much of the early sport diving equipment used to establish the sport in the USA and the UK came from French and Italian manufacturers and the names of Cressi, La Spirotechnique, Squalo, and others were familiar to the pioneer divers in both those countries.

All great endeavors need leaders, and the French pioneer diver Henri Broussard had risen to international attention through his leadership in the late 1940s and early 1950s with the Club Alpin Sous Marin in Cannes. He was also an early underwater photographer and his images had been published internationally.

An example of his international influence can be gauged by the fact that when American diving icon E.R. Cross wanted an underwater photograph for the cover of his 1954 book *Underwater Photography and Television*, he chose an image by Broussard. Broussard courteously mailed him a print, and a strong trans-Atlantic bond between two hugely influential divers was made. I use this "pre-email" example from 60 years ago to illustrate how even in the formative years of sport diving there was a huge international camaraderie in the new sport.

In these early years of recreational diving and expanding underwater photography, the principal method of delivering news, and information on the latest available diving equipment, was through national diving magazines. The French had *L'Aventure Sous-Marine* and *L'Eau et La Vie Sous-Marine*, the British had the BSAC magazine *Neptune*, and in the USA we had *The Skin Diver*, first published in December 1951.

Students of American diving history will know that *The Skin*

*Diver* was initially a magazine for spear fishermen. When it was launched, recreational scuba was only just starting to have a following. This was also the case with the French magazines.

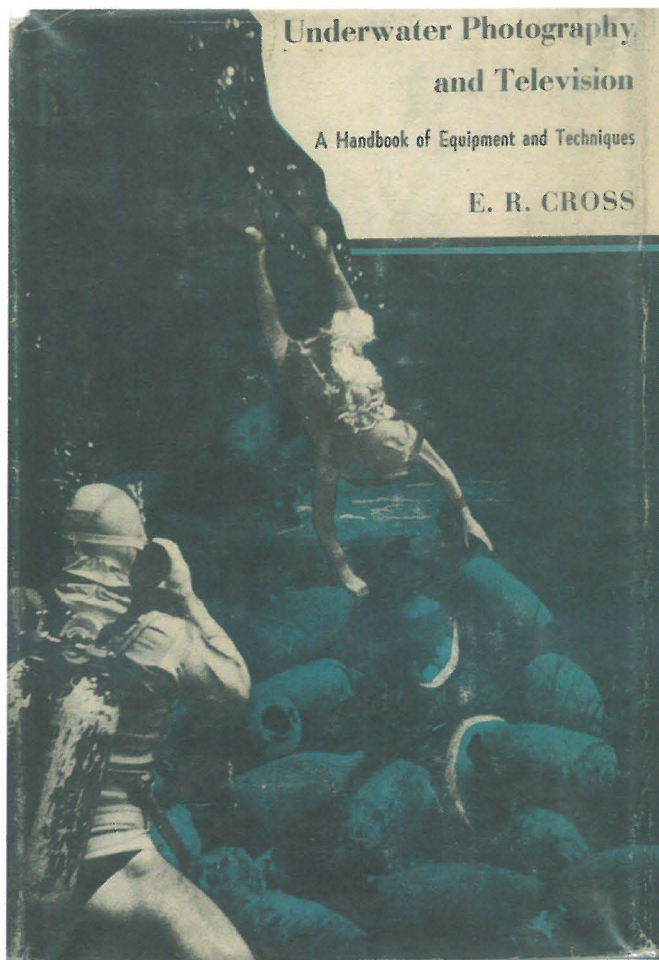
Spearfishing, or *chasse sous-marine* as it was called in France, was the initial focus of their content. Although recreational sport diving originated in France, equipment development in the USA was very rapid as recreational diving swiftly spread.

In a very short time *The Skin Diver* began to focus more on the expanding market of scuba diving. American manufacturers began to produce equipment that challenged the European imports, and for *The Skin Diver* both advertising revenues and circulation started to rise. The quality of the publication rose in unison with its market.

In 1954, the BSAC in England launched Britain's first diving magazine, *Neptune* (which later became *Triton*), for its club members, and the focus was much more on scuba diving than on spearfishing. A major difference in these early magazines was that *Neptune* was a club magazine. You had to join the BSAC to receive it. The French and American magazines were available to anyone who could afford them, irrespective of any membership status.

The products shown here in the advertisements from France and Britain will be familiar to most HDS members who have an interest in early sports diving. Also of interest is that *The Skin Diver* magazine was available by subscription from agents in both France and Britain and their advertisements are reproduced here. I hope you enjoy this review of advertisements from the early days of international recreational diving. 🐠

Our regular Vintage Scuba columnist Ed LaRochele was unable to contribute to this issue due to a scheduling conflict, but he will be back for the next issue.



Henri Broussard's photo of divers in the Mediterranean recovering amphora, as shown on the cover of E.R. Cross' 1954 book, *Underwater Photography and Television*.



## SCAPHANDRE AUTONOME COUSTEAU-GAGNAN

VENTE • CRÉDIT • LOCATION DE TOUT  
MATÉRIEL DE PLONGÉE ET COMPRESSEUR  
AUTONOME PORTABLE 4 M<sup>3</sup> A 200 KGS

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AGENT GÉNÉRAL DE LA SPIROTECHNIQUE  
81, RUE D'ANTIBES - CANNES - TÉL. 932-89

(Above) 1956 January - March issue of *L' AVENTURE SOUS - MARINE*. An eighth of a page advert for La Spirotechnique equipment from Henri Broussard's diving school in Cannes.

(Right) 1956 January - March issue of *L' AVENTURE SOUS - MARINE*. A quarter page advert for the American printing of Rebikoff and Cherney's book, *A Guide to Underwater Photography*. Note that book had to be ordered from New York, as apparently there was no French agent for it at this time.

(Below) 1960 July-August issue of *Triton* magazine. A half page advert for La Spirotechnique equipment supplied from Cannes, France, by Henri Broussard.

## A. GUIDE to UNDERWATER PHOTOGRAPHY

by  
*Dimitri Rebikoff  
and Paul Cherney*

Order direct from:

CINEFOT  
INTERNATIONAL  
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Illustration courtesy of Ocina Paris

## COUSTEAU-GAGNAN DIVING SETS H. BROUSSARD

(Founder of the World's first diving school)  
has selected for you equipment for

### WORK — EXPLORATION — SPORT — STILL & CINE PHOTOGRAPHY UNDERWATER FISHING

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Mistral Demand Valve	£18 0. 0.
Cylinders 2/ M3 1960	£18 0. 0.
Twin Cylinders. Steel 4/M3. 200	£38 0. 0.
Calypso Wet Suit	£18 0. 0.
Super Calypso Wet Suit	£22 0. 0.

Full details supplied, prices quoted are ex Cannes and free of taxes.

Payment by Travellers Cheques accepted.

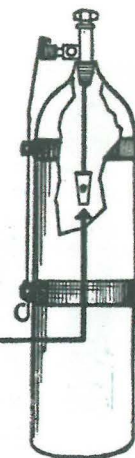
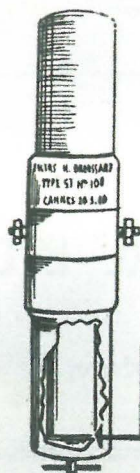
**NEW!** In order to avoid the intake of dust resulting from cylinder rust, we have applied the principle of our World famous fluid separator, type Marine 57.

OUR MICROMATIC DIVING FILTER guards against lung infections, blocked valves and deterioration of equipment.

MICROMATIC FLUID SEPARATORS

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- Over 40 large pages (11" x 8") every issue.

Available by subscription only from British Representative:—

**PETER F. HOBSON**  
344 Topsham Road, Countess Wear, Exeter, Devon.  
Rates: 1-year 28s. 6d. 2-years 50s.  
Specimen Copy 3s. 6d.

(Above) 1957 November - December issue, *Triton* magazine. A quarter page advert for *The Skin Diver* magazine available through their British Representative Peter F. Hobson, of Countess Wear, Exeter, Devon.

(Right) 1958, August - September issue of *L'EAU et la vie sous-marine*. An advert for *The Skin Diver* magazine, which had to be purchased directly from their address in Lynwood, California.

(Below) 1955, issue 2, *L'EAU et la vie sous-marine*. An advert for *The Skin Diver* magazine in this early French diving magazine.

ABONNEZ-VOUS

au

SKIN-DIVER

4 dollars U. S. par an



SKIN DIVER

REVUE AMERICAINE DE LA CHASSE SOUS-MARINE  
Bulletin d'abonnement ci-dessous :

The SKIN DIVER Magazine  
P. O. BOX 128  
LYNWOOD CALIFORNIA

Subscription Blank

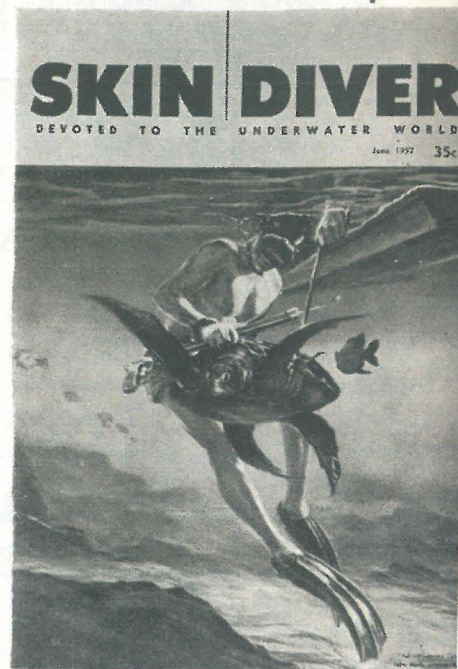
\$ 3.00: 1 Year — \$ 5.00: 2 Years — \$ 4.00: Foreign 1 Year

Name \_\_\_\_\_ New (Renewal)

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

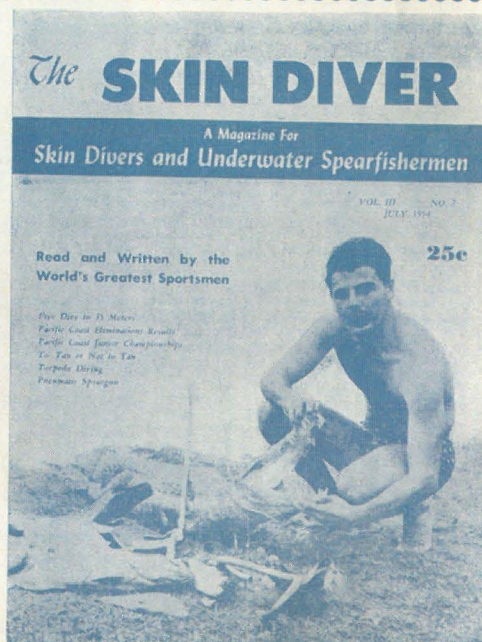
Club or Association \_\_\_\_\_



*L'EAU et la vie sous-marine* recommande à tous les amateurs de chasse Sous-Marine de s'abonner à la magnifique revue mensuelle qui paraît aux U. S. A. :

**Le "SKIN DIVER"**

Abonnement pour une année : \$ 4 qui vous pouvez souscrire par l'intermédiaire de nos bureaux, 1, rue de la Haye à Tanger ou en envoyant directement le bulletin d'abonnement que nous publions en page 40 au **SKIN DIVER P. O. Box 128 LYNWOOD California U.S.A.**



L'EAU ET LA VIE SOUS-MARINE — HIVER 54-55

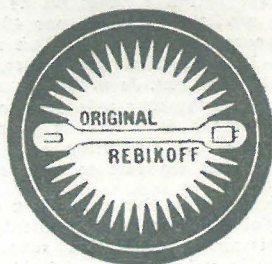


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APPAREILS

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ÉTANCHES

PHOTO ET CINEMA  
APPAREILS ET CAMERAS ÉTANCHES  
ÉTUDES D'ÉQUIPEMENTS SPÉCIAUX  
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POUR TOUTES PROFONDEURS  
APPLICATIONS INDUSTRIELLES

D. REBIKOFF

35, Bd Gazagniaire

CANNES

Tél: 935-69

(Right) 1958 January - March issue *L' AVENTURE SOUS - MARINE*. Quarter page advert for the Plastiphot "Ocina" which could accommodate either a still or movie camera.

## PHOTOGRAPHIEZ & FILMEZ EN PLONGÉE

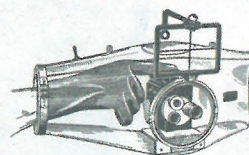
AVEC UN SEUL BOITIER POUR TOUTS VOS APPAREILS

Boîtier étanche, souple, le

**PLASTIPHOT**

"OCINA"

peut recevoir en toute sécurité n'importe quel appareil de photographie ou caméra de cinéma ainsi que les posemètres et les divers accessoires.



Avec le **PLASTIPHOT "OCINA"** absolument tous les boutons et commandes demeurent manœuvrables.

Cinq années d'expérience et nombreuses attestations d'utilisateurs satisfaits.

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Documentation détaillée gratuite sur demande aux :

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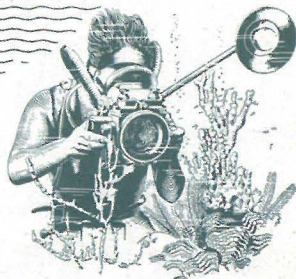
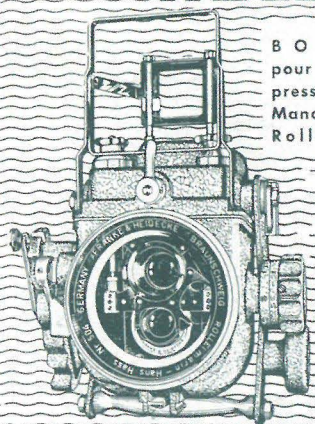
(Left) 1955 issue # 3, *L' EAU et la vie sous - marine*. A quarter page advert for electronic photography and film equipment from Dimitri Rebikoff who, like Broussard, was based in Cannes and had been active in Club Alpin Sous - Marine.

(Below Left) 1955 issue # 3, *L' EAU et la vie sous - marine*. A quarter page advert for the recently available System Hans Hass Rolleimarin noting the manufacturers location but no French agent.

(Below Right) 1956 January - March issue *L' AVENTURE SOUS - MARINE*. A quarter page advert for Cameralex from A. Closier of Algiers, which notes numerous other cameras and housings.

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BOITIER SOUS - MARIN  
pour Rolleiflex-Automat. Résistant à la  
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Manœuvre entièrement automatique du  
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## CAMERALEX

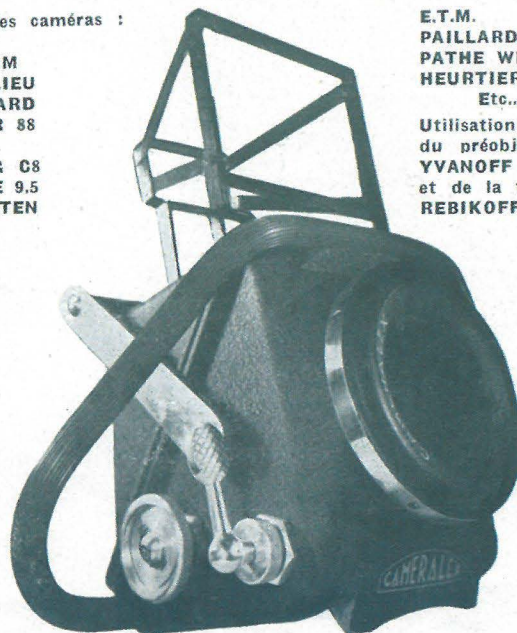
BOITE ÉTANCHE  
POUR PRISES DE VUES SOUS-MARINES

pour les caméras :

EMEL  
ERCSAM  
BEAULIEU  
PAILLARD  
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EUMIG C8  
PATHE 9.5  
CHRISTEN  
L.D.-8

E.T.M.  
PAILLARD "H"  
PATHE WEBER  
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Utilisation  
du préobjectif  
YVANOFF  
et de la torpille  
REBIKOFF



Éts A. CLOSIER - Rue Delattre, PARC D'HYDRA-BIRMANDREIS - ALGER



# CALYPSO

ISO-VÊTEMENT

(This page) 1958, January-March issue of *L' AVENTURE SOUS - MARINE*. A full color back cover advert for Spirotechnique, manufacturers of the Cousteau - Gagnan Scaphandre Autonome.

(Facing page) 1956 October - December issue of *L' AVENTURE SOUS - MARINE*. A full page advert of equipment from Edouard Godel, who was working, as the advert notes, out of the old work shop of fin pioneer Commandant de Corlieu in Paris.

*Souple comme un gant*



*Léger comme une plume*



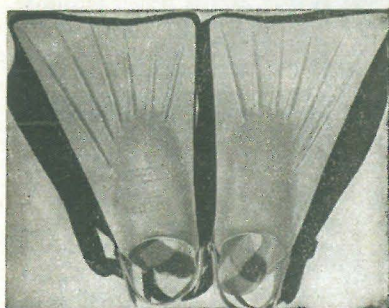
*Chaud comme une fourrure*

*une  
Nouveauté*

**spirotechnique**  
scaphandre autonome. Cousteau-Gagnan



# LE MATÉRIEL DES PLONGEURS D'ÉLITE



## PALMES

« **BELUGA** » à bride réglable, 3 tailles: petites, moyennes, grandes.  
 « **PROPULS** » toutes tailles du 24/26 au 44/46.  
 « **COMMANDO** » une taille 44/46 pour nageur de combat avec habit isolant (réglementaire dans la marine).

★



## MASQUE

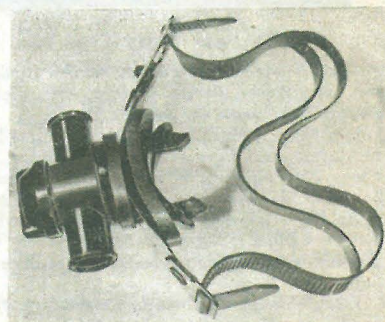
« **CYCLOPE** » masque moderne rectangulaire à très grande surface de visibilité. Brides fendues en deux, assujettissant parfaitement le masque, se met en place d'une seule main, ne s'écrase pas.

★



## LUNETTE

« **EXPLOR** » lunette de nage en surface, protège les yeux contre la contagion et l'irritation oculaire. Ne prend pas le nez.



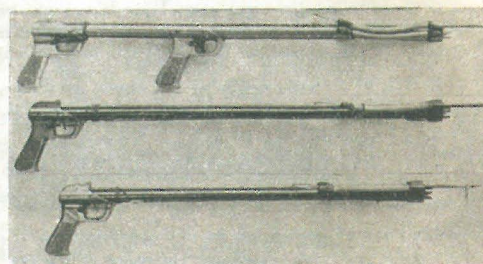
**EMBOUT BUCAL** avec couvre-lèvres de sécurité et robinet pour tout équipement respiratoire à air comprimé ou à oxygène en circuit fermé (réglementaire dans la marine).



**RACCORD DE SECURITE « PROPULS »** bucal avec couvre-lèvres pour respiration avec bouteille d'air comprimé (réglementaire dans la marine).



Raccord bucaux tous modèles.



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« **BASO-K** » flèche guidée, sensationnelles comme précision de tir.

ANCIENS ÉTABLISSEMENTS DU COMMANDANT DE CORLIEU  
**E<sup>ts</sup> Edouard GODEL**

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FOURNISSEUR DE LA MARINE NATIONALE ET DES MARINES ÉTRANGÈRES - Fabrication Française - En vente dans toutes les maisons spécialisées en articles de sport



# Images of History

## 19th Century Stereograph of Hiram W. Phillips, Submarine Diver

By Gary Pilecki

All photos ©2013 G. Pilecki. All rights reserved.

This historic diver stereograph of a helmet diver is copyrighted 1873. The image area of the photograph is approximately 3 1/4 X 6 inches and the total card size is 3 1/2 X 7 inches. Some printed writing on the left side of the card includes the photographer's name, A.W. Anderson and the copyright date. Written in pencil on the reverse of the card is "photo by Anderson, Haverhill, Mass.," and also "Hiram W. Phillips, submarine diver."

### OBSERVATIONS

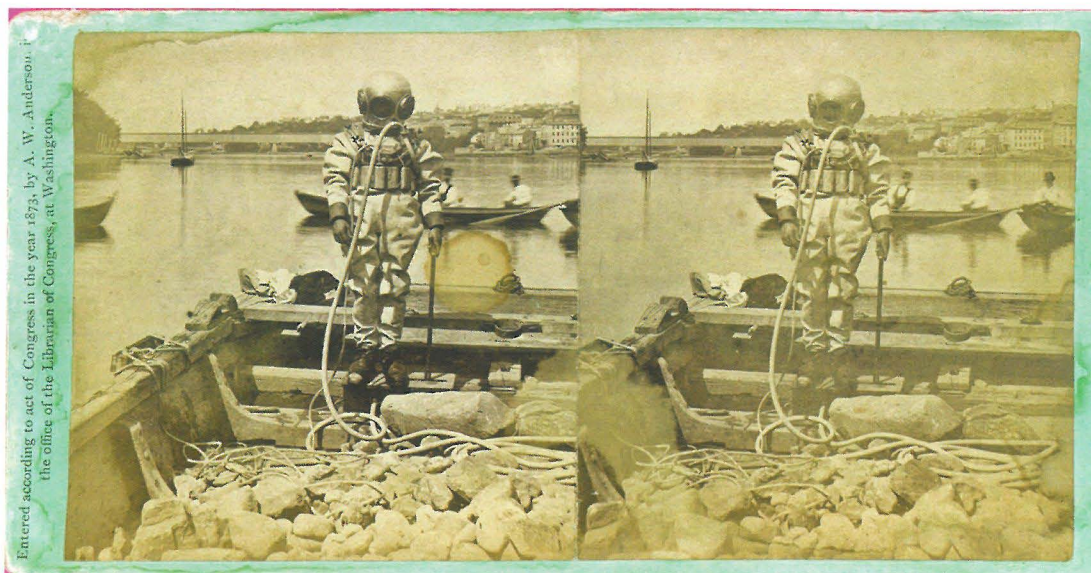
The diver appears to be posing for the photographer at the stern of a small boat with rocks on the deck. In the background can be seen the shoreline on both the right and left sides of the photograph, which leads me to conclude that this is a river.

Also in the background is a covered bridge. I believe that this is the Merrimack River where it passes by Haverhill, Massachusetts and that the diver was involved with the construction of a breakwater at the time of the photograph. His equipment looks like an Alfred Hale diving helmet and apparatus from Boston, Massachusetts, with the air hose running under his left arm and going to the back of the breast plate neck ring.

### RESEARCH

With the diver's name, I was able to use internet search engines to find out some interesting information about his life and diving career. He was born in Braintree, Massachusetts in 1850 and died in 1924 in a diving accident. The online newspaper article states that his cage suddenly gave way as he plunged to a depth of fifty feet. In other words, his body was squeezed into his helmet in a horrific accident. His diving career covered fifty-five years during which time he engaged in salvage, underwater construction of sea walls and foundations, and in his later years the laying of underwater sewer pipe. Also to his credit, he was responsible for a number of improvements to diving apparatus and underwater construction methods, some of which were patented and some which were given to the industry without patents. One of his submarine pipe laying patents can be viewed online at [www.google.com/patents/US650134](http://www.google.com/patents/US650134).

Some other information about his life includes: he had three daughters, was a member of the Quincy City Council for three terms, was a member of the rural Lodge of Masons, gave lectures to the public about his diving career, and wrote poetry. The following is a poem he wrote which I found online. ☹



### WITHIN THE SEA

Within the sea there is delight,  
For 'tis no less of God's domain  
Than is the mountain's lofty height,  
The woodland wild or fertile plain.

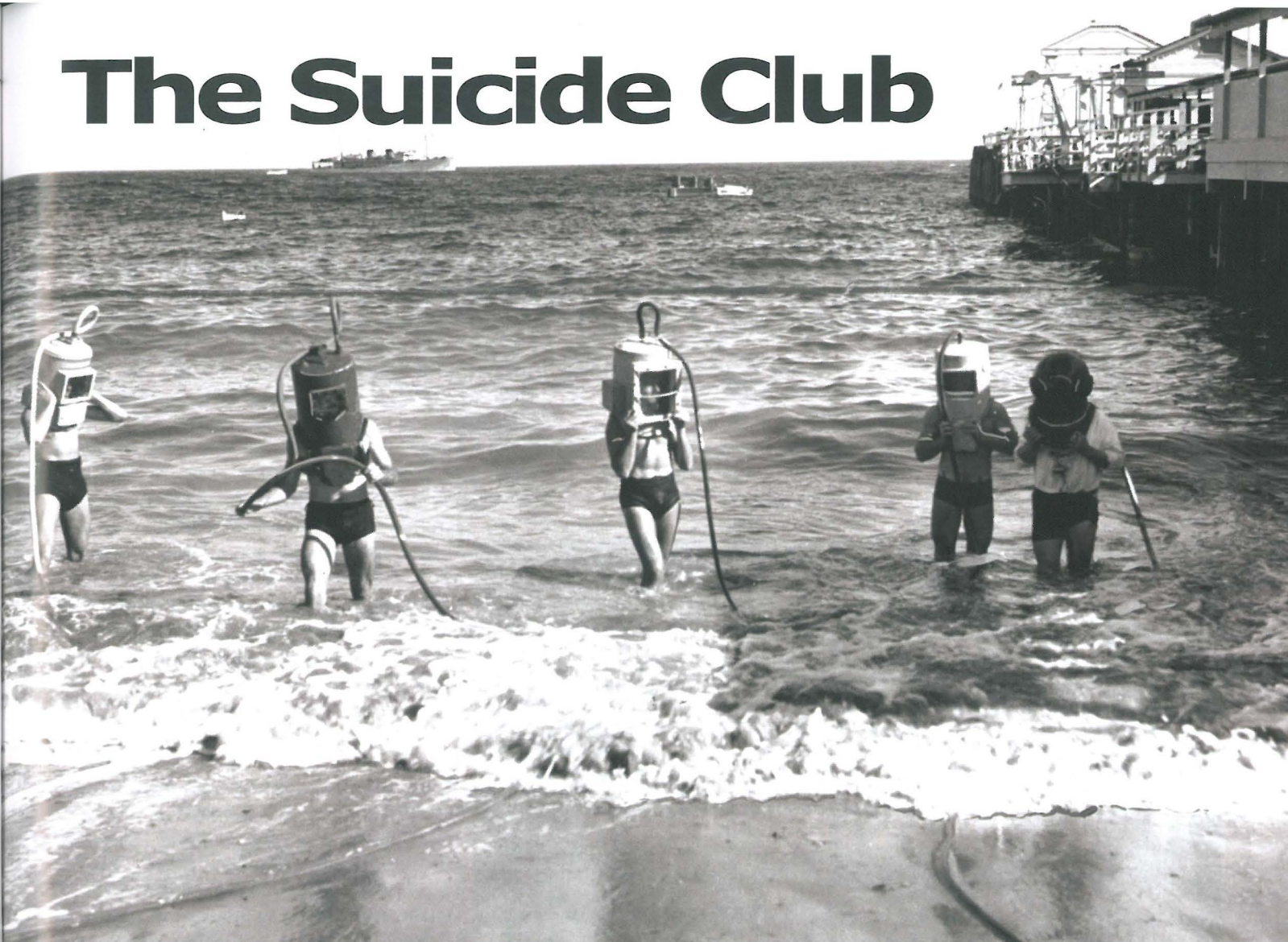
Within the caverns of the deep  
What rapturous wonders hidden lie!  
What priceless treasures hidden sleep,  
What unknown wealth of mystery!

Old Ocean guards her marvels strange  
From vandal hand of man secure;  
No avarice can disarrange;  
Through age and eon they endure.

No grandeur heaven could I ask  
Than that 'twere mine forevermore,  
With spirit free from earthly mask,  
The ocean's depths but to explore!



# The Suicide Club



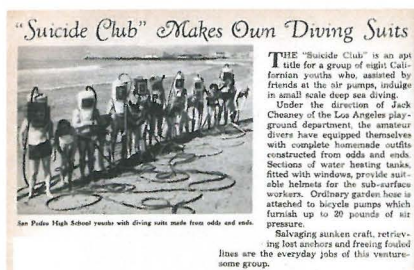
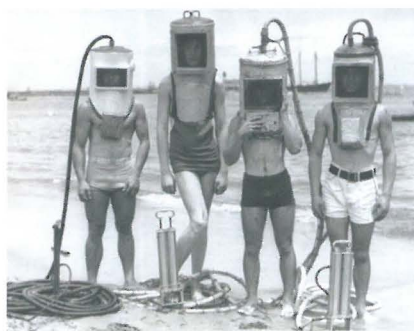
By Peter Jackson

Seeing Gary Pilecki's article about the divers at Catalina Island (JODH 77) reminded me that I had a number of pictures and some text relating to those young men who, under the guidance of Jack Cheaney of the Los Angeles Playground Department, made and used their own diving helmets.

Adopting a skull and crossbones as their emblem, they called their group the Suicide Club. Unlikely, one would imagine, to attract either customers or new members and seemingly at odds with their optimism regarding finding wealth under the sea.

Sadly, such enterprising and constructive activities are a thing of the past and would doubtless lead to someone being sued these days. Besides, where would you find eight girls in a row to "man" the pumps?

Playgrounds are not what they used to be! 🐼



(Above) Press Photo dated 12/9/33. Original caption reads: SEARCHING PIRATE GOLD. These lads of the Los Angeles County Playground, hearing thrilling tales of sunken pirate chests cast into the sea off Catalina island, California, fashioned their own diving helmets and descended beneath the waters. The results of the treasure hunt were not made known.

(Left) Press photo dated 6/9/33. Original caption reads: Boys club makes successful diving outfits from odds and ends. Working under direction of Los Angeles Playground officials this group of boys 16 - 18 years of age, made diving helmets from sections of hot water heaters, boilers and other easily secured junk, which have proven highly successful in operation. With 50 feet of hose and bicycle pumps supplying air to the venturesome young divers, the home made outfits have been tested as deep as 35 feet although 20 feet has been set as a safety factor by Playground officials. The helmets which weigh around 45 pounds form the only weights necessary allowing the young divers to discard them and swim to the surface instantly in an emergency. The boys have already commenced to earn spending money with their outfits, scraping boat bottoms and doing other minor diving operations. (L-R) The boys are Floyd Hanson, George Hoch, Harry Vaughn and Bill Parks.

(Bottom left) Cutting from the June 1935 issue of *Modern Mechanix*.





# Bob Croft

## *Navy Diver, Submariner, Father of American Freediving*

Written by Bob Croft, with Forward by Terry Maas

Reviewed by Nyle Monday

Naples, Italy & Crystal River FL: Idelson-Gnocchi Publisher, 2013

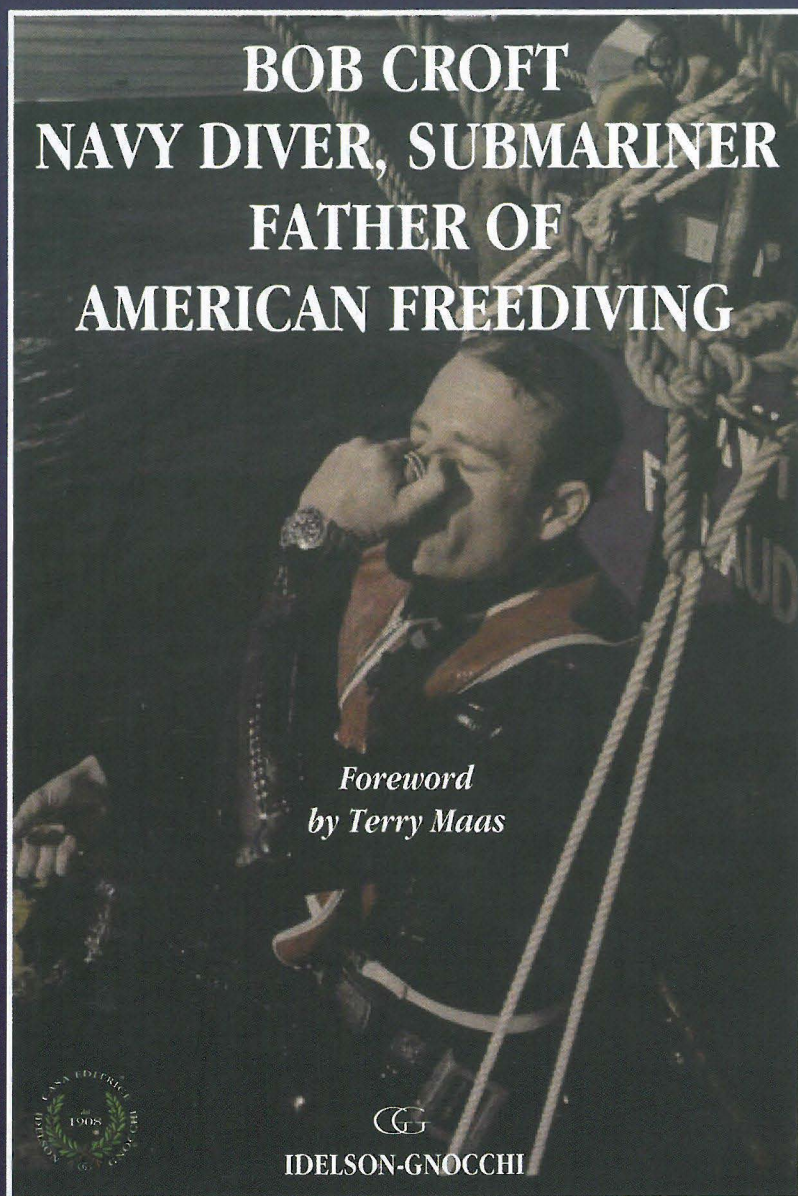
ISBN 1928649459

Robert Croft is not a name which is immediately recognizable to most divers, but for those interested in breath-hold diving, there are few names of more significance. This slender autobiographical volume tells the story of one of the true pioneers of modern free diving. It is the sort of book one can read in a single sitting, and yet contains so much history that afterwards you wonder how the author managed to pack so much information into such a small space. It is written in an almost conversational style, making it a pleasure to read, and seems to convey the personality of the author.

Croft began his underwater career as a child growing up Groton, Connecticut, and Narragansett Bay, Rhode Island. Growing up in close proximity with the sea provided lots of distractions for a young boy, and Croft credits his early abilities in breath holding to his quest for the quahog clams in the shallows of the latter location.

He also made his first acquaintance with submarines during this period of his life, which would later develop as a career in the Navy.

It was also during this time that he began to practice a method of filling his lungs without using his diaphragm to





inhale. In his words:

"...I would exhale down to the point where I couldn't force any more air out – something that years later would be referred to as my residual lung volume – and would then begin to refill my lungs by using my tongue like a piston to pump air back in. When I first started practicing this trick, I would usually have to stop and revert to using my diaphragm to breath in, because I was starved for air. However, as time went by I became more and more proficient at the technique...It was a kid's game that would serve me well many, many years later." (pg. 7)

Having missed World War II, Croft was anxious to get into the fray when the Korean War broke out. Although still too young to enlist in the regular Navy, he found that by getting his parents to agree to allow him join the Naval Reserve he could then request a transfer to active duty without any additional parental consent.

This he promptly did, and ended up being trained as engine man on submarines. After his initial enlistment, he left the Navy, only to reenlist two years later.

His next tour on submarines provided much more excitement, as the book clearly documents.

His time on the *USS Tusk*, and particularly one exciting incident in the Barents Sea, was memorable to say the least.

But having spent 12 years on sea duty, the Navy had other plans for Croft -- plans which

would lead him down a path he surely could not have foreseen.

A chance meeting with a former shipmate who worked at the Submarine Escape Training Tank at New London intrigued Croft with the possibility of being assigned to that duty, but it first required that he become qualified as a SCUBA diver.

He immediately volunteered for that training and, after graduating, he was assigned to the duty he had desired. The escape tank, a landmark on the New London base from 1930 to 1994, proved to be the beginning of Croft's career as a world class free diver.

The book details the author's initial difficulties in adjusting to the rigors of free diving. The 118-foot deep tower was a challenge for both the submarine trainees and the instructors who worked there.

It was in the Submarine Escape Training Tank that Croft began to develop the skills that eventually would gain him a worldwide reputation. Although initially very demanding, he gradually became more comfortable with free diving, and soon reverted to using the air-packing method he had developed as a child to extend his down time.

It worked so well that he was easily surpassing five minutes under water on each dive. His abilities soon attracted the attention of the scientists at the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory, and they enlisted his help in some

of the research they were conducting. At that time it was felt that no free diver could go below 120 feet without suffering a thoracic squeeze and death. With Croft's help, they would soon decisively prove that this theory was wrong.

One of the interesting aspects of this volume is the usually unseen role that Croft and others like him played in expanding our collective knowledge of the effects of the underwater world on human physiology. Croft literally put his life on the line in the course of some of these experiments, but was fortunate enough to survive.

This was not without cost, however. In one experiment, for example, Croft was placed underwater ten feet away from a sonar sound head which was pinging at full power.

He suffered major permanent hearing damage as a result, but because of what they learned from the experiment, the Navy will not deploy divers when active sonar is operating.

Croft's curiosity about his own abilities led him to push the frontiers of free diving to new limits, both in the Navy and on his own.

The book details how he became involved in the development of the competitive sport of free diving and his involvement with CMAS and personalities like Enzo Maiorca and Jacques Mayol. Readers who are only familiar with this sport through occasional articles and the film "Big Blue" will find this information very

interesting.

As a valuable addition to the volume, the author has included reprints of four articles relating to the research he participated in regarding breathhold diving as appendices. These include "Pulmonary and Circulatory Adjustments Determining the Limits of Depths in Breathhold Diving" (from the 27 November 1968 issue of *Science*), "Cardiovascular Changes during Breath-Hold Dives in a Pressure Chamber" (published in 1997 by the American Physiological Society), "The Effects of Simulated Breathholding Dives in the Dry and Wet Chambers on Blood Shifts into the Thorax" (published by the Naval Submarine Medical Research Laboratory in October 1972), and "Deep Dive for Science: Robert Croft Shatters Lung Squeeze Theory with 240 Ft. Dive" (from the August 1969 issue of *Skin Diver Magazine*). Together these articles show the progression of our knowledge of underwater physiology.

Bob Croft: Navy Diver, Submariner, Father of American Freediving is an excellent read. With a forward by well-known diver Terry Maas, it provides an amazing amount of information on freediving in its 154 pages.

Croft gives the reader a chance to look into a part of diving history that has, for the most part, previously gone unrecorded.

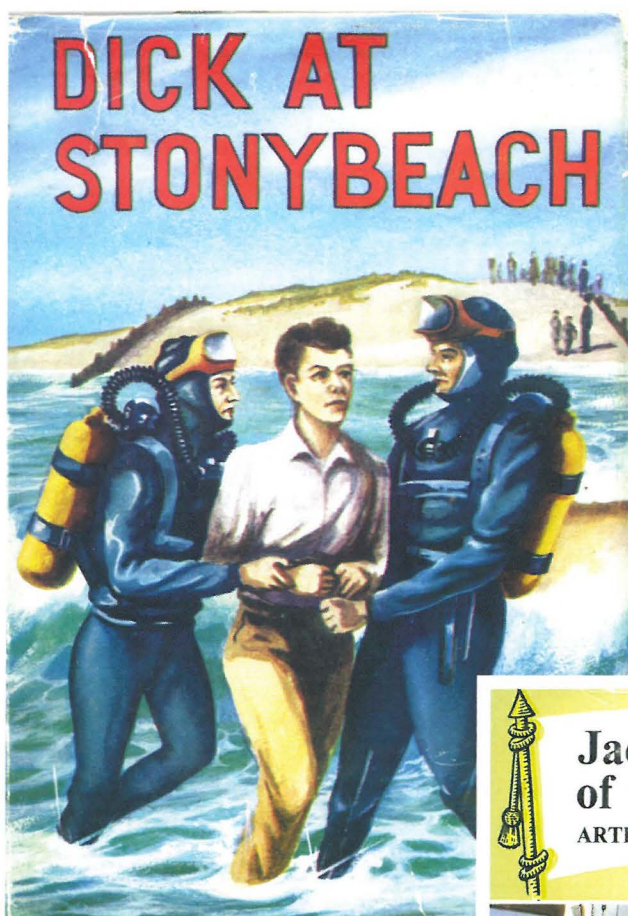
Coming from a man who actually made much of that history, it is a true jewel. 🐬



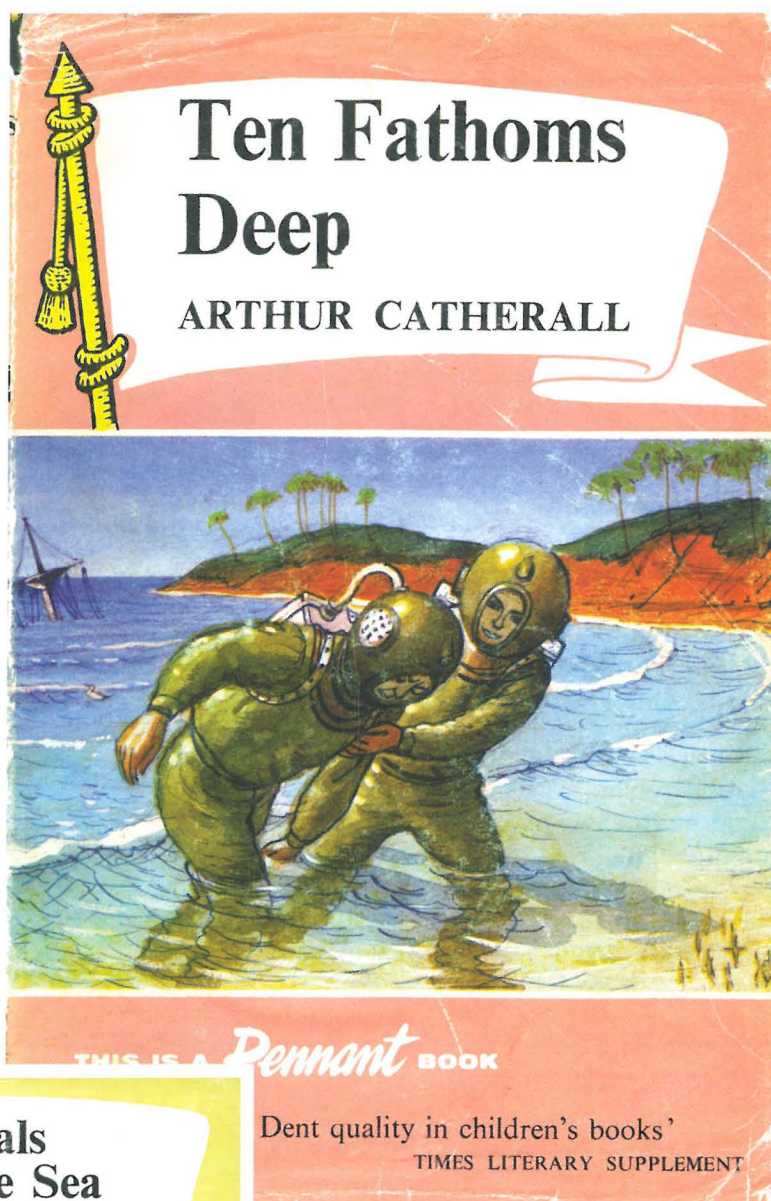
# More Skin Diving Adventures

By Peter Jackson

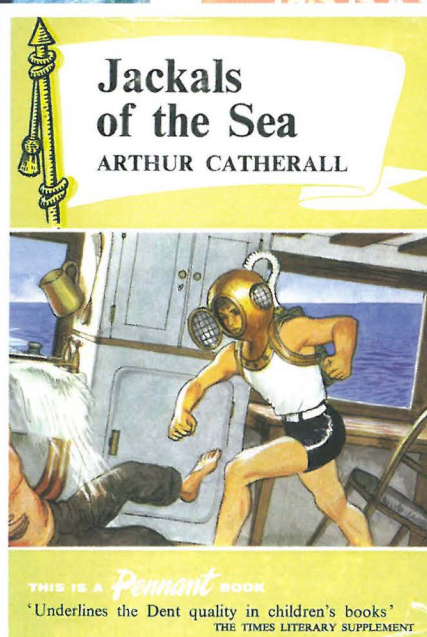
In this edition we feature three more of those boys' adventure books from the sixties, by which time the deep-sea diver was almost, but obviously not quite, a thing of the past. Two of these books were by Arthur Catherall, the author we featured in the last issue. Next time, we will go back a little further and find some more helmet divers for you. 🐬



*Dick at Stony Beach*, by Mary Steer. Pickering & Inglis Ltd. London 1964



*Ten Fathoms Deep*, by Arthur Catherall. J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. London 1962



*Jackals of the Sea*, by Arthur Catherall. J. M. Dent & Sons Ltd. London 1965





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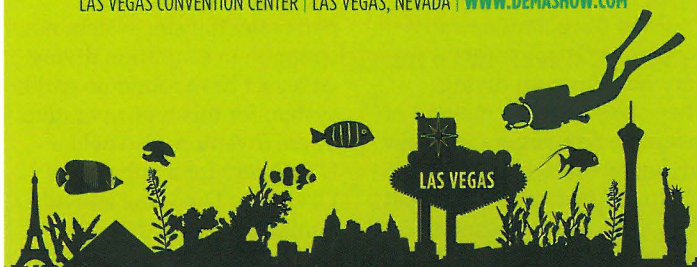
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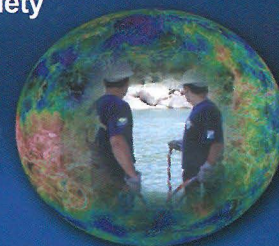
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## A Unique Diving Bell

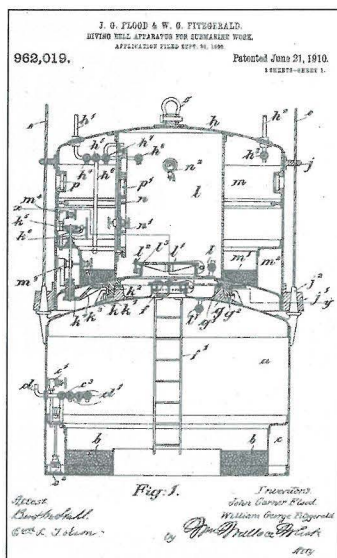
By James Vorosmarti, MD

I can imagine that the reader's eyes glazed over at seeing the phrase "diving bell" in the title. "Not another one!" is the comment I imagine the reader thinking. However, it must be remembered that diving bells were very important and common tools for underwater work through the 19th and early 20th century. Between 1800 and 1900 almost 40% of the patents issued for underwater work dealt with bells.

This bell was designed by John Garner Flood and William George Fitzgerald of Westcliffe-on-Sea and West Ealing respectively, England. The patent was applied for on 30 September, 1909, issued on 21 June, 1910, and given the number 962,019. The design had already been patented in England.

The object of the patent was "The provision of means whereby submarine work can be carried on continuously, such means enabling ready access to and from the chamber from which the work is being conducted without any necessity for interfering with or necessitating the movement of such chamber." To achieve this objective they designed two chambers very similar in design to act as bells which could be attached to each other or separated (Fig. 1). In addition a third chamber was provided which attached to the upper chamber and used as a decompression chamber (not shown).

The lower bell was designed to be the usual working bell. It was simple, consisting of a circular bell with an open bottom. It contained areas for solid ballast (b) and water ballast (c). Air was supplied to the



bell by a line connected to the bell at (d). The air could be supplied directly into the bell or distributed to several divers through various connections (d1). On the top of the bell was a circular flange (g) containing a flexible gasket. This was to allow a connection to the upper bell. A hatch (f) was provided in the top of the bell to allow entrance and exit to and from the upper bell. This bell was supported by two cables (e) from the surface ship and connected to the bell through pad eyes on the lower bell. The conical connector (j2) was designed to fit into an extension of the upper bell (j1) and the cable led to the surface through the eyes on the upper chamber (j). The purpose of these connections was to keep the bells aligned so they fit together securely.

The upper bell was a bit more complicated. In the center was a circular chamber (l). Around this was an annular chamber (h). The inner chamber would normally be pressurized during operations. The annular chamber was designed to act as an airlock

for entry to the center chamber and thus the lower bell. This was done using a hatch on the side of the central chamber (n), and through a hatch in the bottom of the central chamber. This bell was also supplied with tanks for solid and water ballast. Air was supplied to both chambers by hoses to the surface through connections (h1) and (h2). Another circular flange was attached to the bottom of the bell which mated with the flange on the top of the bottom bell. The annular chamber contained manual controls to operate a series of jaws around these flanges to lock them together.

I cannot explain in detail the exact mechanism, as it is unclear from the narrative and other drawings. My simple interpretation is the following: On the outside of the ring on the top of the bottom bell is another ring (k2). This ring can be rotated by a manually operated mechanism so that projections on k2 engage claws on ring (g), locking the bells together. Ports were set into the outer walls of the upper chamber. There is no mention of any electrical lines for lights for either bell nor for a means of communicating to the surface, which is surprising. The upper chamber was supported by a cable to the surface from a pad eye on the top of the chamber.

From the patent narrative it is obvious the inventors were very familiar with diving. They state that "the method of using the apparatus . . . is very advantageous when depths of 150 to 200 feet have to be dealt with as in such cases more time is spent in compression and decompression than on actual work." The advantage was provided by a third

chamber which was kept on the support vessel and used for compression and decompression when required. This was a simple closed bell which had a flange on the top to connect with the bottom flange of the top bell along with an entry hatch. The divers in the bottom bell, at the end of work, could enter the bottom bell and the top bell. The top bell was then separated from the bottom bell and raised to the surface. The third chamber which was on wheels was placed under the top chamber and connected to it with the divers entering the third chamber to complete decompression. The third chamber was moved elsewhere on the deck and the top chamber put back into use. Reversing this cycle obviously allowed compression in the third chamber with further transfers to the bottom bell.

There is no record that I or colleagues in England have found that this system was ever built. It is a system with advantages but the complexity may have mitigated against practical use.

Another reason may be that most diving was still done in fairly shallow water and there was no requirement for bell diving to great depths.

This may be the first attempt at a transfer under pressure system or the personnel transfer system now common in saturation diving. At least I have found no earlier system for this type operation. These inventors also held a U.S. Patent for a Submarine Device for Dredging and other Similar Purposes, Number 958,615, 17 May, 1910. This is not strictly a diving system as the workers employed were at one atmosphere. ■



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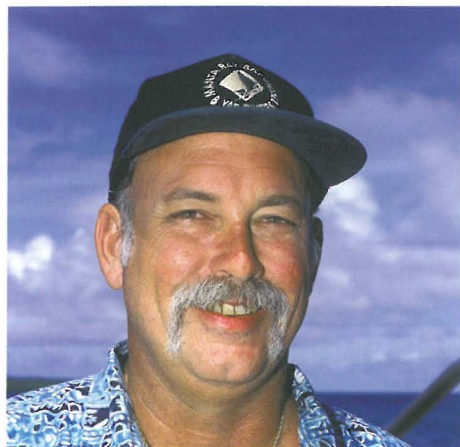
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# International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame Preparing for Star-Studded Induction Ceremony

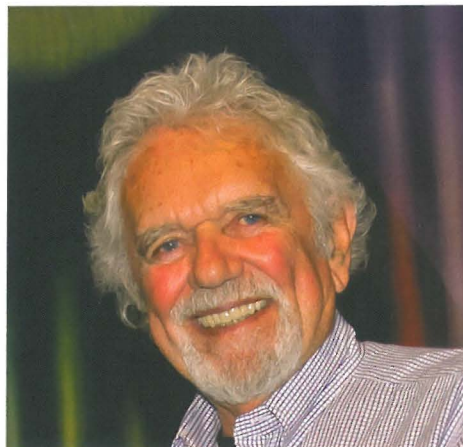
**Make plans now to attend this landmark event  
Friday, October 10, 2014 in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands**

The Board of Directors of the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame are pleased to announce the inductees for the Class of 2014. For tickets or further information on the ceremony contact [amiller@caymanislands.ky](mailto:amiller@caymanislands.ky), or, [ajackman@caymanislands.ky](mailto:ajackman@caymanislands.ky).



## **BILL ACKER**

The island of Yap's prominence as a world-class dive destination is in part due to Acker, whose impact on the local economy has brought jobs and prosperity to the local community. The owner of the first dive shop in Yap, Acker helped turn the destination into one of the top international dive spots.



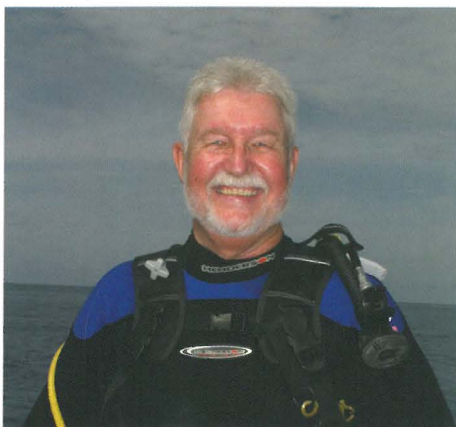
## **CHUCK NICKLIN**

With an extensive background in underwater photography, as well as pioneering efforts in building the San Diego dive scene, Nicklin has contributed greatly to the international dive community. He has captured underwater scenery for catalogues, magazines, and films, including *The Deep*, *For Your Eyes Only*, *The Abyss*, and *Never Say Never Again*.



## **NEAL WATSON**

Watson has worked in commercial diving, stunt coordination, hotel management, and diving-related franchises. He holds several Guinness World Records, including the compressed air diving depth record. In addition to appearing on television shows and in magazines and newspapers, Watson has worked with numerous celebrities including teaching Sarah Ferguson, the Duchess of York, to dive and hand-feeding sharks with Jean-Michel Cousteau.



## **DAN ORR**

Most recently the President Emeritus of the Divers Alert Network Foundation and the former CEO, Orr has been involved in the diving industry for more than 40 years. His continued efforts to promote dive safety include authoring and contributing to many books and magazine articles. He is currently Chairman of the Historical Diving Society.



## **ALESE AND MORTON PECHTER**

Alese and Morton Pechter's achievements include documenting the underwater experience for numerous publications, educating children about the marine environment and advocating for ocean conservation. They have received honors from the United Nations Environment Program and are recognized by the U.S. Navy as Honorary Deep Sea Divers.



## **THE EARLY PIONEER**

The Early Pioneer in 2014 will be Decima Mas, the world's first successful underwater combat unit using scuba equipment. Based in Italy, the unit came to prominence during WWII and is the forerunner of all international underwater combat units.



# Grand Cayman Hosting Legends and Lions Week

**Week-long Diving Celebration scheduled for October 4-11, 2014 in Grand Cayman, Cayman Islands**

The 2014 International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame Induction is just one of the events in the Legends and Lions Week Festival held in Grand Cayman October 4-11, 2014.

The inaugural Legends and Lions dive festival will showcase Cayman's superb dive locations, honor dive legends being inducted into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame, give attendees the chance to join the fight against invasive Lionfish and feature incredible savings in dive packages offered by Cayman's top dive operators Red Sail Sports, Divetech, Ocean Frontiers and Sunset House.

"It is only logical that one of the world's top scuba diving destinations should have an annual festival celebrating the sport and highlighting Cayman's fantastic marine world," said Red Sail Sports Operations Manager Rod McDowall.

Teaming up with the Cayman Islands Department of Tourism, the dive industry leaders are bringing together several existing scuba promotions during this traditionally slow time of year to take advantage of excellent off-season rates for this scuba week.

*Legends and Lions* will feature plenty of excellent diving and a number of special topside events.

Conservation-minded divers can join the frontline in the battle against the invasive Lionfish - threatening all Caribbean reefs - with a Lionfish culling certification and then removing the pesky predators from local reefs.

But that's not all! The day's fresh Lionfish catch will be cooked up and enjoyed during a street party hosted by local artist and environmentalist Guy Harvey. To cap off this scuba week celebration, participants will attend the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame Induction Dinner, where some of the biggest names in the dive industry will be honored.

Cayman is host to the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame and all *Legends and Lions* participants will be invited to attend. This year's inductees are Alese and Mort Pechter, Bill Acker, Chuck Nicklin, Dan Orr and Neal Watson. "Divers from around the world will have the opportunity to dive with a legend who helped create the sport we all love, and diving with a legend is something you cannot do anywhere," said Sunset House General Manager Keith Sahm. "Here in the Cayman Islands each attendee will not only be able to dive with them, but they'll also get a chance to mingle with these dive pioneers when they attend the Awards Night dinner as part of their *Legends and Lions* package."

Taking advantage of shoulder season rates, *Legends and Lions* dive packages offer an excellent price for a 7-day stay. The

packages include six daily 2-tank dives to the island's top dive sites, a dive on the ex-USS *Kittiwake* wreck, a Lionfish certification with Lionfish Hunt Dive Competition, Lionfish Dinner with

Underwater Photo Competition, International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame Induction Dinner and assorted on-island discounts

Cayman's leading dive operators are pulling out all the stops to ensure everyone enjoys an unforgettable dive vacation.

Red Sail Sports is adding a free Sunset Sail aboard a luxury Catamaran and a 20% discount on beach toys at all its beach locations.

Divetech's package offers a full meal plan, unlimited shore diving, a dive on the Guardian of the Reef underwater sculpture, and a pool rebreather test and demonstration.

Sunset House's

perks include a Stingray City dive, an afternoon dive on the USS *Kittiwake*, unlimited shore diving, DAN insurance for an additional \$40, plus a welcome drink and gift.

Ocean Frontiers' package added-value offerings include a car rental for the entire stay, shore diving, a catamaran sail and a bottle of wine.

Leading dive operators hope to grow *Legends and Lions* into the destination's signature annual dive event promoting its best natural resources - Cayman's spectacular underwater world, presented by the best dive operators in the business, topped off with exceptional Caymanian hospitality.

"It should soon be on every divers calendar - fantastic diving and accommodations, great air connections, the chance to meet industry celebrities and greats, help the environment by culling and eating the dreaded Lionfish, party and have fun in the Caribbean - what more would you want?" asked Rod McDowall.

For more information, or to book a *Legends and Lions* package, visit them online at [www.divecayman.ky/scubaweek](http://www.divecayman.ky/scubaweek). 🐠





By Leslie Leaney

A review of recent internet auction results. While every effort is made to accurately describe the lots, vendors' opinions of what the items are, and what their condition is, are not consistent. These results are published in good faith for the interest of members, and the HDS and JoDH are not responsible for any errors in descriptions, listings, or realized prices.

## A.J. MORSE & SON, INC. NO. 1 DIVING PUMP

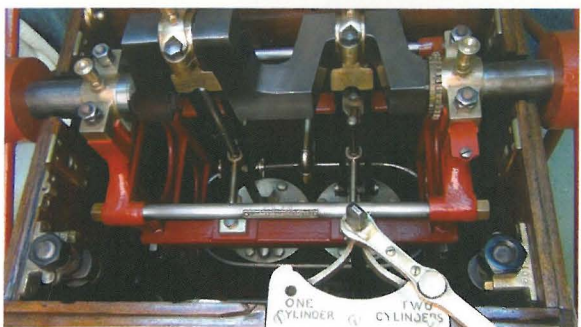


Pumps do not turn up very often in auctions, so I thought we would feature this one, which has been restored and was listed with several good photographs. The seller was an HDS member and the pump located in Michigan.

The listing stated: "Fabulous Circa 1915 Morse No. 1 diving apparatus pump in amazing condition. Just out of a detailed painstaking restoration. Fully stripped down to the frame, bead-blasted, polished, sealed and refinished to the original Morse color. Oak case stripped and professionally refinished to the original U.S. Navy standard. Two-diver model with all brass parts intact and present, original Morse pressure gauges restored, both dials re-silvered to perfection. Has two sets of flywheel crank wood handles, and turns over and pumps air. Has the original tool and gasket wood case in the back (usually missing), and the original ring pulls. Brass reinforcing case corners, original brass hasp and latch, and has the nearly impossible to find brass lid struts to hold the lid open. (These frequently broke and were removed in favor of chain). This pump is the finest example of Morse early diving apparatus and will grace any high end maritime hard hat diving museum collection. See a narrated detailed video on You Tube under my name Steve Gronow or search Morse 1915 Diving Apparatus. Weight with flywheels is about 750 lbs. I can crate it for \$200." Steve later added, "The card in the lid is incorrect (It is for a No. 2 three cylinder pump) and we are waiting for the correct No. 1 card which we will install prior to shipment or send after."

The photos clearly showed the detailed restoration work and were an excellent example of the saying, "A picture is worth a thousand words."

One of the major factors that act as an obstacle in selling these deep-water pumps is their shipping. Buyers who are able to pick up the pump in person often have a substantial advantage over someone who has to budget for the packing, shipping and insurance costs to have it delivered. Twenty-nine bids took the pump to \$4,251, where it failed to meet its reserve.





## JOHN DATE, MONTREAL, CANADA, 3 LIGHT HELMET



It is not often that we get to find a John Date helmet available at auction and the one here drew a lot of early attention when 32 bidders drove it up from \$99.99 to \$7,600.00 in the first two days. The seller correctly listed it, in part, as "A very scarce diving helmet manufactured by the oldest and only Canadian maker." The listing continued "This diving helmet was bought from the son of a man that worked and used this helmet for the Shawinigan Water and Power Company, in Quebec, Canada in the late 1930's to the 1950's." The excellent array of photos included one of an asset plaque from the Shawinigan Engineering Co. Ltd., with the number 3048 stamped in it, soldered to the back of the bonnet. The same number was stamped into the front of the breastplate. The neck ring appeared to be non-recessed and retained a complete gasket. The helmet

appeared to be in complete condition, but with some heavy denting on the crown of the bonnet. The helmet was listed as being in Quebec, Canada, with a shipping cost of \$350 "from outside US." The seller also noted that the export of the helmet might be subject to "customs processing and additional charges," which, from prior personal experience in dealing with Canadian items, I can attest to as being not insignificant. Still, this was an uncommon helmet and when the auction clock finally expired 37 bids had taken it to \$10,250, which in a few years time might turn out to be quite a bargain.



## MORSE DIVING EQUIPMENT CO. LTD. 3-LIGHT COMMERCIAL DIVING HELMET

Serial #4722. The listing noted that all the glass was intact, some minor tinning remained and that the helmet had all matched numbers, apart from the back right strap that was numbered 1537. The bonnet had a USN Mark V exhaust and the there was patch at the back where the original comms elbow would have been. The comms inlet block located to the right and below the patch appeared to be the Schrader commercial style. The breastplate neck ring featured two lashing eyes. The spring lock was broken and joined by what looked like a long bolt that went through its middle. Two of the breastplate nuts were not brass wing nuts. The helmet showed minor denting and appeared to be overall good condition. It was shown attached to a diving dress and with a whip and air control valve, neither of which were included in the auction. The helmet was listed twice and sold on its second listing for \$5,100 on 17 bids.



## DESCO U.S. NAVY MARK V

Serial # 203, date 12-20-42. An early WWII DESCO low volume Mark V that appeared to be in very good condition. All the tinning was gone but the shell surfaces appeared free of any denting or major dings or scratches. Judging by its patina marks, and the remnants of rubber stuck under the back straps, it appeared that the helmet had been removed from a "Jake." It was missing both front straps and all 12 breastplate nuts. It came with an air control valve, whip, and non-return valve, which were all connected to the air inlet elbow. There was a minimal description of the helmet but several very good photos, which showed all the major features. The seller was listed as being in Groton, Connecticut, an area, which has a strong U.S. Navy presence. 36 bids took it to \$5,498. Despite the missing items this seemed a very fair price, or perhaps even a little low, considering how early in DESCO's WWII production this helmet was.





By Sid Macken



Bolex Paillard  
Underwater housing,  
Bolex H-16, camera,  
10mm/f1.6 Switar  
lens, accessories, and  
wooden case. \$2456



Aqua-Cam camera with  
flash attachment, no  
flash reflector. \$99



Rolleimarine housing, with twin flash attachments,  
no camera. \$1081



HyperTech Pro 9A video  
housing for Sony or Ricoh  
video camera. \$102

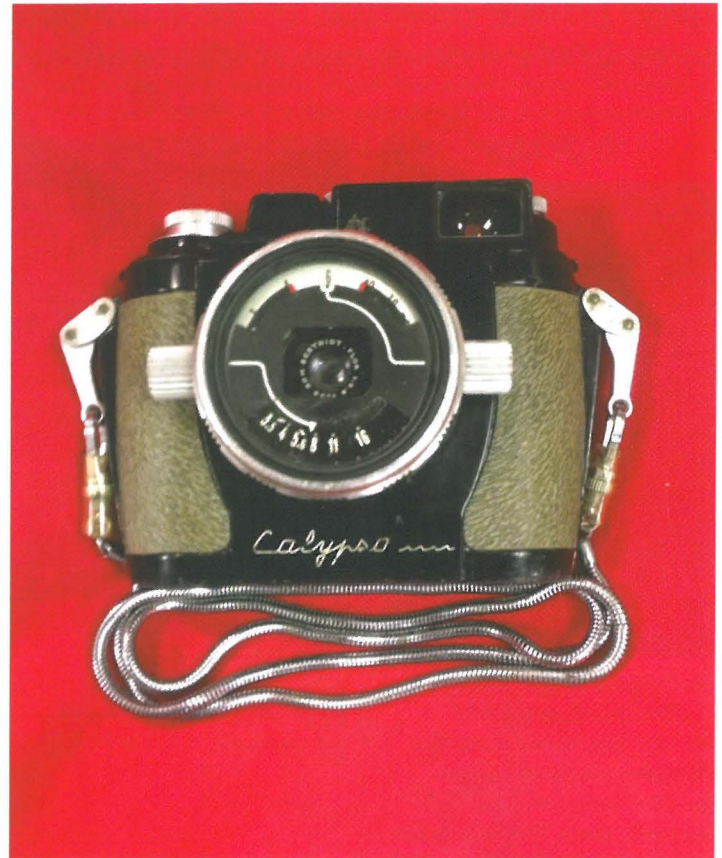
Nikonos BC flash  
attachment. \$45







Rebikoff housing with Kodak Instamatic camera. \$311



Calypso Phot camera, 35mm Som Berthiot f3.5 lens, glossy finish. \$689



Bolex Paillard U/W housing only. \$499



Fujica Marine-8 housing and camera. \$208



Aqua-Cam with flash. Appeared all original, in very good cosmetic condition. \$404



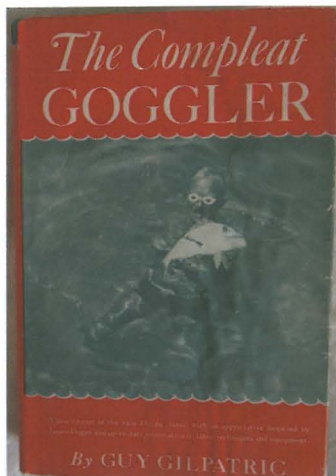
Calypso Phot camera, 35mm Som Berthiot f3.5 lens, glossy finish. \$511



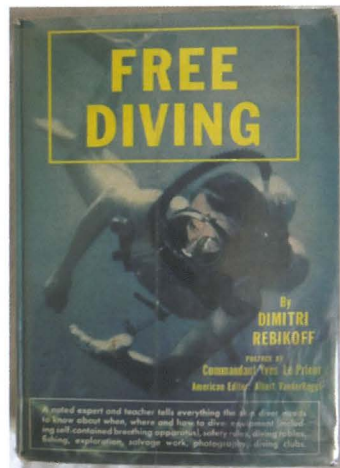


Large private collection of literature gets lots of attention. The following is just some of the more unusual, desirable or collectable. **By Ed LaRoche**

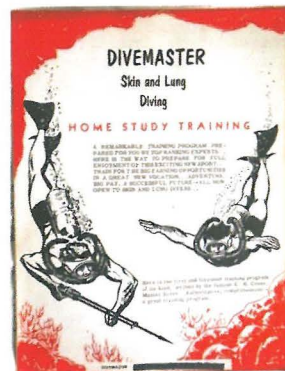
## BOOKS



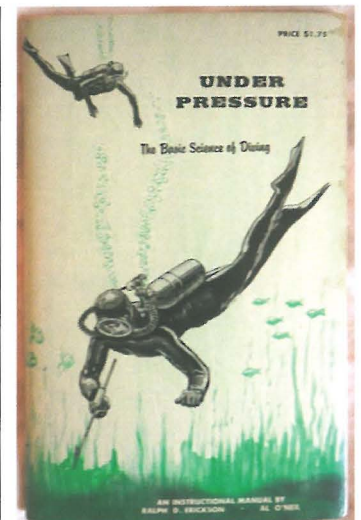
*The Compleat Goggler*, by Guy Gilpatric, second printing 1957. This book was revered as the most informative and comprehensive about the subject and use of mask and fins for diving. Whether it be for spearfishing or simply for the sport of free diving, this book had it covered in story fashion. SOLD for \$180.



*Free Diving*, by Dimitri Rebikoff, first edition 1955 signed by author. Dimitri tells stories of his photo equipment inventions, experiences and adventures. SOLD for \$138.80.

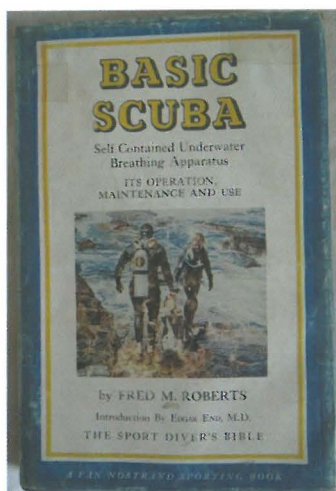


*DiveMaster Home Study Course*, written by E.R. Cross 1955. This home study came with 25 course booklets. The first of it's king where the course gave you step by step teaching you skin and scuba safety. This set was missing one of the 25 booklets. SOLD for \$283.00

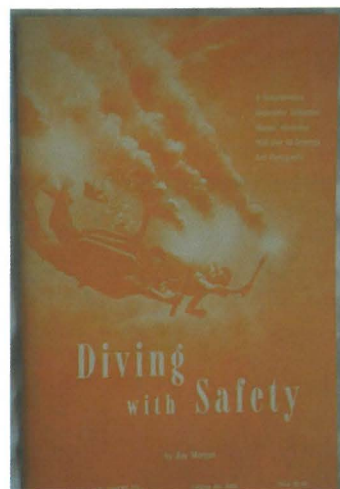


*Under Pressure* an instructional manual published by Demone Manufacturing Co. and written by Ralph Erickson 1962. Another booklet that had limited circulation. Demone Manufacturing had a short few years of production and so did this booklet. SOLD for \$102.50

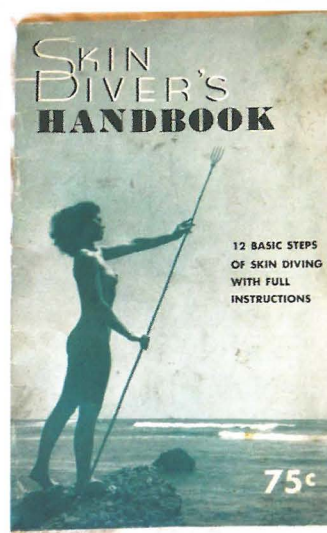
## BOOKLETS



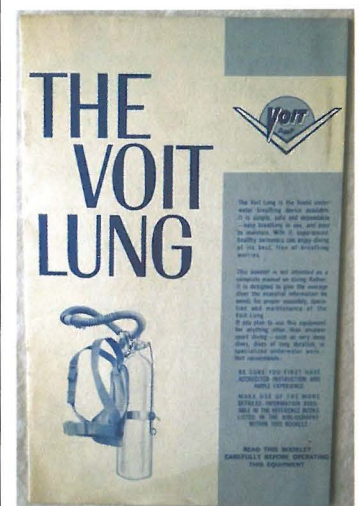
*Basic Scuba*, by Fred Roberts, first edition 1960. This book is considered to be the bible for the vintage scuba regulator collector. Fred had direct contact with the manufacturers of the period and past to help compile with great detail each model regulator. And that is what makes it so desirable today. SOLD for \$41.



*Diving with Safety* by Bev Morgan, published by US Divers Co. copyright 1956 third and final printing. US Divers asked Bev to write this comprehensive Instruction Manual on skin and SCUBA diving. The booklet was advertised in magazines like The Skin Diver and was listed in US Divers yearly catalogs for retail stores to purchase. SOLD for \$68.



*Skin Diver's Handbook*, first edition 1955 by California Handbooks. Booklet introduces reader to skin and scuba equipment basics with a twist, all models are nude females. Makes it difficult to remember what they said about the equipment. Very few were circulated and therefore difficult to find a copy. SOLD for \$136.50.



*The Voit Lung* published 1961. This booklet was placed in box with regulators at factory 1961. Booklet is accentually a mini catalog without prices, and a few tips on use and care. SOLD for \$97.25 A second copy sold for \$88.

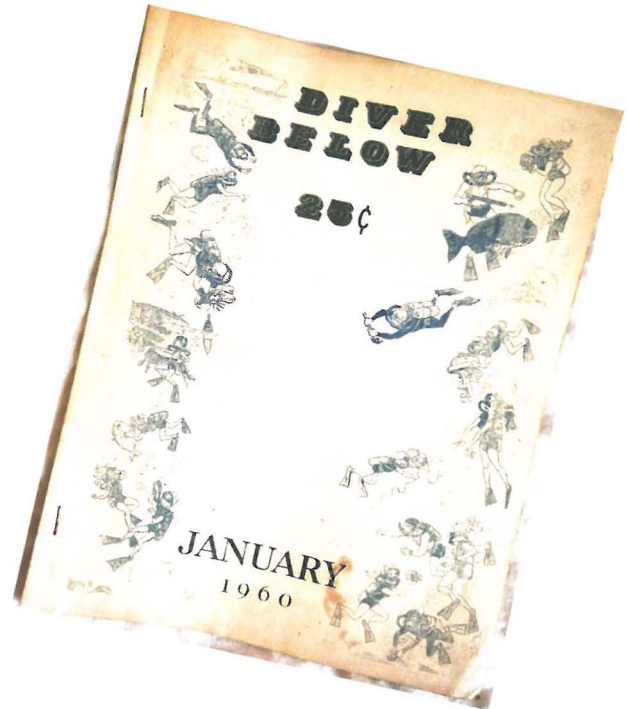


## MAGAZINES

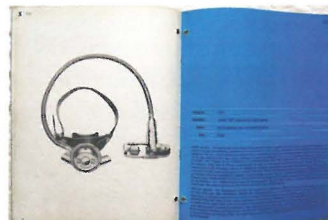


(Left) *Diver Below* magazine, June 1960. This first issue magazine would be the start for a near two-year run before ending December 1961. This first issue SOLD for \$241. A second copy SOLD for \$127.

(Below) *Diver Below* newsletter, January 1960. A Chicago-based publishing company started it as a newsletter for local clubs and dive stores. They hoped it would become a nationwide dive magazine. After just five monthly newsletters, they printed their first magazine in June. This rare newsletter SOLD for \$119.



## CATALOGS



ScubaPro catalog, "Division of Healthways," 1963. A very rare catalog. Healthways was the original owner/creator of ScubaPro. They planned to use it as a professional division of Healthways products. But in 1962 they were going out of business and sold the name and rights to Gustav Dalla Valle, owner and president of Sports Industries. He, along with Dick Bonin, started up ScubaPro Co. in 1963. They used the same catalog design, but introduced their own engineered regulators, the MK1 and MK2. SOLD for \$572.50. A second copy sold for \$400.



US Divers catalog June 1953. This was not the first catalog, but it is from the first full year after Rene Sports became US Divers. A very desirable catalog to have for the US Divers collector. SOLD for \$200.50



# NOGI Enters a New Era

The Academy of Underwater Arts and Sciences (AUAS), which has administered the venerated NOGI Award since 1960, has undergone a significant transformation since electing a new President and Executive Director during the AUAS annual meeting held in Orlando, Florida in November 2013.

Hillary Hauser, who won a NOGI for Distinguished Service in 2009 for her work as co-founder and Executive Director of Heal the Ocean, Santa Barbara, California, was elected AUAS President/Secretary. Bob Evans of Force Fin, who won a NOGI in 2005 for Sports/Education for his innovative equipment design and furthering of the sport of diving, was elected Executive Director. Bob already knew his territory well as he had been AUAS President from 2006 to 2009.

Hauser and Evans have moved the AUAS offices to Santa Barbara, California, and engaged an expert non-profit accountant and a professional bookkeeper to establish strong non-profit procedure within the organization. They led a series of Board meetings to establish Committees, and established the NOGI Award process within the AUAS, done in California through the AUAS NOGI Award Committee.

In April 2014, the Academy elected to its Board of Directors Michael Lang, a diving physiology expert who is Vice President of International Sales for OxyHeal Health Group and affiliates, a San Diego-based company that provides expertise in diving services, hyperbaric oxygen therapy and manufacturing of hyperbaric medical systems in use in hospitals around the world. Lang won a NOGI in 2009 in Science, and in addition has won the AAUS Conrad Limbaugh Scientific Diving Leadership Award, DEMA Reaching Out Award, and induction into the DEMA Diving Hall of Fame.

Hauser says there will be more AUAS Board building in the coming year, and there will be an all-new NOGI Gala on November 20, 2014 in Las Vegas.

"We have something up our sleeve, to celebrate this year's (2014) NOGI award winners," Hauser says. "They are all distinguished, wonderful people who have contributed mightily to the underwater world." 🐠

## 2014 NOGI Recipients

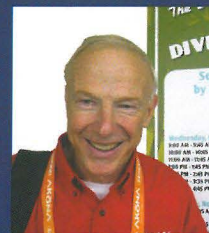
### **DISTINGUISHED SERVICE: Lad Handelman**

Founder of two premier offshore underwater contractors, Oceaneering International and Cal Dive International, which pioneered much of the deep-diving technology that has become industry practice today. This includes saturation diving, the use of remote-operated vehicles and one-atmosphere diving suits. He is also co-founder the Marine Mammal Consulting Group in Santa Barbara, Ca.



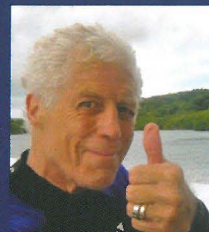
### **SCIENCE: Dr. Richard Vann**

Venerated diving physiologist with numerous publications (43 Refereed Publications, 61 non-refereed publications, numerous dissertations, abstracts and web-based training materials) and major contributor to Divers Alert Network (DAN).



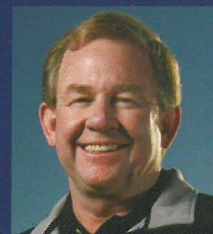
### **ENVIRONMENT: Bill Macdonald**

Long-time film producer with a focus on educational programming on watershed awareness, and producer of the series "Sea Pulse." The series includes "Our Synthetic Sea," featuring the problem of marine debris with a focus on the Algalita Marine Research Foundation, which won an award for excellence at the Santa Cruz Environmental Film Festival.



### **SPORTS/EDUCATION: Mike Hollis**

CEO of Oceanic, Aeris, LavaCore and Pelagic Pressure Systems, who started his career as a commercial saturation diver working in the oil fields, and who applied his knowledge of physics to start Pelagic Pressure Systems. The company produced the DataMax, the first electronic dive gauge before developing 300 different dive computers and introducing two new rebreathers – the "Prism" for tech divers and the revolutionary "Explorer" for the recreational market.



### **ARTS : Richard Ellis**

Distinguished artist whose marine life paintings are exhibited all over the world, author of many books, research associate in the American Museum of Natural History's division of paleontology, special advisor to the American Cetacean Society, and U.S. delegate to International Whaling Commission from 1980 to 1990.







# HISTORICAL DIVING SOCIETY USA QUARTERLY REPORT

[www.hds.org](http://www.hds.org)

*By Sid Macken, President*



## Hitting the Conference Trail



(Above) The HDS booth staff, Sid Macken, Ed Uditis, Greg Platt, and Greg Hunter.

(Below L) Stan Waterman visits with fans who have just purchased a set of HDS Stan Waterman Series DVDs.

(Below R) Trying on the Exosuit. You, too, could have a chance to dive the Nuytco Research Exosuit. Look for the HDS Raffle ad on the inside front cover of this issue.

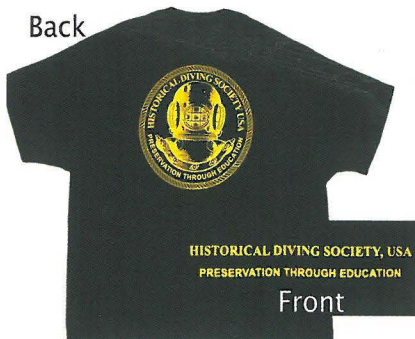
Underwater Intervention, the commercial diving industry's signature trade show held each year in New Orleans, was first on the HDS agenda of trade shows for 2014. It was great to get back to the "Big Easy" and connect with friends on the commercial side of the diving industry.

Retired Navy Master Divers Bob Barth and Dave Sullivan were presented with the 2013 Nick Icorn Award in a ceremony at the Navy Diving and Salvage Training Center in Panama City, Florida. Presentation of this award had been delayed until it could take place at the Naval base in front of their colleagues and friends. Bob and Dave received the award for their part in establishing the Mark V Monument, which now sits outside the facility (*JoDH* Vol. 21, #3, Summer 2013, #76). HDS presenters Sid Macken and Leslie Leaney were given a tour of the facility by Cdr. Hung Cao, the school Commandant.

On the recreational side of diving, Greg Platt and Bob Rusnak headed up our team of volunteers at Our World Underwater, February 20-22,







(Above) The new HDS T-shirt.

(Right) Brad Rindos and Quinn Tomaro from Scout Troop 8, Chatham, New Jersey, stopped by to admire the Exosuit at Beneath the Sea.



(Above and below) The Boston Sea Rovers celebrated their 60th anniversary in March. Their show incorporated a diving museum with displays of commercial as well as recreational dive gear.

in Chicago. Greg Hunter and Bob represented the HDS at the Boston Sea Rovers 60th anniversary celebration in Boston on March 8th and 9th. The Sea Rovers show was special in that it was their 60th, or Diamond, Anniversary, and they established a separate museum to show off 60 years of recreational diving equipment.

Beneath the Sea, held in March, was, as usual, a very exciting event. The HDS booth crew included Greg Platt, Gregg Hunter, Ryan Hunter, and Ed Uditis. We were visited by Stan Waterman and Ben Hellwarth, who did signings of DVDs and books. We also introduced a new HDS T-shirt at this show, the first new design we have had in several years.

The next time you call the HDS, you will notice a difference. In the past, when members dialed the HDS phone number trying to reach Leslie at the *Journal*, or Greg in Membership, they always got me, then usually had to place a second call to get the person they wanted in the first place. Now, you need only dial the HDS main number (805-934-1660) to be connected to Membership, Products, the *Journal of Diving History*, or to me. This upgrade to our phone system will eliminate some confusion and speed calls to the proper department. Give it a try. We would love to hear from you.

Other news concerns the HDS raffles. The annual helmet raffle is being put on hold, but at the same time, we are announcing a special one-time raffle. In reviewing California regulations concerning raffles operated by charities, we found that we must change the date on which we do the actual raffle drawing, and it must be conducted within the state of California.

Unfortunately, we can no longer hold our drawing at DEMA. In an effort to get in sync with the California law, and still provide the opportunity to purchase tickets and the major dive shows, HDS is putting the annual raffle drawing on hold until Summer of 2015. It is a bit of an inconvenience, but those of you who have already purchased tickets need not worry. Your tickets will be included in the 2015 drawing. This is a step we must take to insure that the HDS is, and remains, compliant with California law.

The special raffle is announced elsewhere in this issue of the *Journal*. It is of short duration and will be drawn this August 16th, but once you see the prize, you will agree that it is very special indeed.

Safe diving,

*Greg Hunter*





# Historical Diving Society's **Helmets in History**

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**Continues  
in 2014!**

Our First Quarter 2014 coin, the Kirby Morgan Superlite 17, is now available. The Superlite series of helmets set a new standard for diving equipment. Leading the pack of lightweight, swimmable, surface-supplied helmets for the commercial diving industry, the Superlite was soon adopted by the military, as well as professional divers in many different fields of endeavor.

HDS 20th Anniversary HDS Challenge coins are sold out. A limited number of 2013 series coin sets and individual coins are still available, as well as walnut presentation boxes. Contact [products@hds.org](mailto:products@hds.org) for availability.



2013 Helmets in History Boxed Set, \$75 US shipping included  
Walnut Presentation Box, \$25 US shipping included  
INTERNATIONAL ORDERS PLEASE CONTACT [products@hds.org](mailto:products@hds.org)

**Quantities are limited, so get yours today!**





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Close up of Sea of Turtles, original oil painting by Wyland © 2011



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## Nick Icorn

1929 – 2013

*HDS Director of Sport Diving, International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame inductee*



Nick stands by a rare Comminhes unit at one of his museum displays.

### The Keeper of the Flame

Industry pioneer Nick Icorn was born in Hollywood, California in 1929 and had a keen interest in the ocean. From the age of eight he would go tent camping on southern California beaches and learned to swim in the Huntington Beach surf and in the pool by the pier. He entered high school in 1943 during World War II, and in 1944 briefly joined the Merchant Marine as a 14 year old, but was discharged when it was discovered he had lied about his age. Later that year his mother helped him enlist in the United States Marines, and he served in the Philippines and Saipan in the aftermath of WWII. He was accepted for training as a Swimmer Scout in the 1st Beach Reconnaissance Platoon of the Marine Corps.

In 1950 he married his sweetheart Marilyn and they remained together until her death in 2008. Nick's diving career began in the pool at Marilyn's uncle's home where he donned a mask and fins for the first time. This started him on his future career path and he was part of the first formal underwater instructors course conducted at Scripps Institute of Oceanography in 1953.

The following year Nick began working with the Los Angeles County Instructor training program and served on its board of directors for 12 years. He continued with his education in diving and was certified as an instructor by NAUI, SSI, YMCA, NASDS, and Los Angeles County, providing him with a very wide perspective on the quality and contents of all the training programs in the United States. His abundance of experience in diver training drew the attention of John Cronin and Ralph Erickson of the fledgling non-profit training organization PADI, which the two had formed in 1966. Nick was working in the engineering department of U.S. Divers, but in 1970 Cronin and Erickson hired Nick as PADI's first, and only, Executive Director, to develop the PADI diver-training program.

When Nick joined PADI, it only had 234 instructors, a number that under his leadership eventually increased to 12,000 worldwide. The next year he conducted a survey of diving classes throughout the U.S. and wrote the first "Standards and Procedures Manual" for instructors. Nick shortly followed this with his "The Basic Scuba Course" manual, which was a step-by-step comprehensive training manual for basic diving certification. Nick's third manual was "Open Water Training," which probably changed diver training more than any other publication in the history of recreational diving. It was the first effort to incorporate multiple open water dives in the training process, which was key to making the sport safer.

Nick then formulated a dive-training program for PADI consisting of five open water dives and then implemented it under the new certification



of Open Water Diver. He went on to write a series of specialty courses for those who wanted more advanced or specialized training, but who were not necessarily interested in proceeding on the path to becoming an instructor. The whole industry benefited enormously from the influx of more experienced, confident divers who were safe in open water conditions, and who continued diving and training throughout their lives.

Former HDS Director Bob Wohlers worked with Nick and recently recalled his time with him.

"Nick Icorn was a long-time mentor and friend. In 1973, at PADI's new California Headquarters in Costa Mesa (an office above a Security Pacific bank in Costa Mesa), Nick personally "blessed" me through reciprocity as a PADI Scuba Instructor. Because of Nick and PADI, I was able to earn money teaching scuba at age 20, rather than waiting until my 21st birthday as a current NAUI Instructor. During his time at PADI, Nick took the association from a couple of hundred Instructor members to over 10,000.

As PADI's first Executive Director, he penned many curriculum firsts for the association. Noteworthy was PADI's first Standards and Procedures manual and their first ITC curriculum. In 1975 Nick invited me to help staff a PADI Instructor Training Course being held at California State University, Long Beach, where I was going to school.

Nick was close friends with Ted Boehler, another of my early mentors. The ITC was to be a field-test of PADI's very first Instructor curriculum, written by Nick. Total staff for the field test were Nick Icorn, Ted Boehler, Mike Curtis, Sid Albright, and myself. This was my first brush with recreational diving educational curriculum development at the professional level. I was a "green" scuba instructor, and basically unworthy to be a part of this professional-level curriculum field test. Nevertheless, I've always

been so thankful that Nick involved me in the field test. This invitation changed my life, putting me on my own pathway of developing recreational diving curriculum. Nick was like that, he believed in people. Nick and I kept in contact through the years. It was always a pleasure to reunite with this gentle, well mannered, and professional human being. No doubt Nick touched thousands of others during his tenure in the recreational dive industry, and will be missed by many."

Nick eventually left PADI and continued his career in various aspects of recreational diving, and by the time he retired he had worked for U.S. Divers, U.S. Cavalero, Ocean Dynamics, Healthways, Sherwood Selpac, Airco Cryogenics, and Pelican Products.

## Nick and the HDS

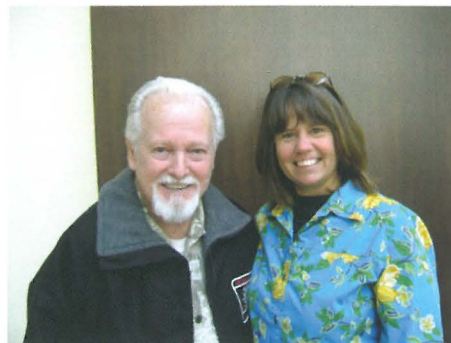
During his lengthy career Nick started collecting equipment on a grand scale, and his knowledge of the equipment's history also grew. By the early 1990s he was recognized as an authority on the history of scuba diving equipment, and often displayed parts of his collection at diving shows under the banner of Nick Icorn's Museum of Diving History. It was at the Long Beach, California, Scuba Show that I first met him and invited him to join the fledgling HDS. He agreed and exhibited part of his Museum collection at the HDS Inaugural Meeting in 1992. It was the only recreational exhibit amid rows of helmets from the commercial industry, but as Nick had also dived heavy gear helmets in his career he was not out of place, and his exhibit was very well received. It included diving items that most attendees had never seen before.

After the Inaugural Meeting I stayed in regular contact with Nick, as he was willing to use his great knowledge and his connections to help grow the HDS. His first step was to write the "Birth of a Sport" column in the first issues of *Historical Diver Magazine*, introducing

Rouquayrol and Denayrouze and the early regulator designers to many members for the first time. He later joined the Board of Directors giving the young HDS a great deal of credibility in the sport diving community.

In addition to his vast

including an edited version of it below as it records, among other things, why Nick grew his goatee, which became his trademark over the years. It also shows that back in the 1950s he was cognizant of the pioneers of recreational diving. "Back in the days before



Nick with his daughter, Tina Louise Icorn.



Nick at the NOGI Awards with Michele Hall.



Nick with HDS Director and Flashback Scuba owner Ryan Spence.

Museum collection, Nick was also very well read, and knew a great deal about scuba and sport diving history. He was definitely not an excitable man, but I clearly recall how enthused he was in 1998 when I told him that Ed Stetson and I were bringing Hans and Lotte Hass back to America for their own Film Festival with the HDS. In his position as the HDS Director of Sports Diving Nick had earlier written a short piece for the HDS magazine about Hans Hass, titled *An American Appreciation*. I am

the first scuba units were introduced into America, a young Austrian named Hans Hass was documenting the underwater world with camera and pen, and leading expeditions to the Caribbean, Red Sea and Australia. Long before Cousteau and *The Silent World* were household names Hass had dived amongst and photographed sharks, manta rays, and barracuda underwater, and studied the many varied species of marine life. His travels were well documented





September 13, 1998. Nick is reconnected with Hans Hass. Shown L to R on the patio of the HDS office in Santa Barbara are Leslie Leaney, Hans Hass, Nick Icorn and Ed Stetson. ©1998 Connie Morgan. All Rights Reserved.

in a series of books written at the time, which helped lead many Americans into the underwater field. His book *Manta* was like a bible to me, and in honor I grew my first goatee so as to look like Hans Hass.

In 1959 at the Underwater Film Festival in San Gabriel, California, I had the privilege of meeting this man. He had arrived early and was standing in the lobby with two film cans under his arm waiting for assistance. The goatee was unmistakable and I hurried over to introduce myself and direct him to the Festival manager. It was a highlight of my early diving days and a moment I will never forget."

I vividly remember Nick being re-united with Hans Hass during a meeting at the HDS office in 1998 when Hans visited Santa Barbara, as shown here. It was a special moment as these two great men re-united after almost 40 years.

In 2008 Sammy Oziel, Philippe Rousseau, Giancarlo Bartoli and I organized a private tour of numerous diving museums in France and Italy, plus a visit aboard *Xarifa* in

Monte Carlo. We called it the "In The Father's Fin Prints Tour," and we were all very pleased to be able to have Nick join us. Although Nick was not in the best of health, Mark Howell had volunteered to assist him, and he managed to attend all the events on the tour. Through the international network of HDS groups Nick was already well-known among several of our hosts, and able to share his knowledge with the numerous local divers who came to meet us, in addition to the members of the Fin Print Tour.

His unique contributions to the history of diving were recognized by the HDS in 2003 with the establishing of the HDS Nick Icorn Diving Heritage Award. The award has been presented each year, to recipients from England, France, Holland, Australia, Germany and USA.

Although he struggled with health issues through the 2000-decade, Nick still managed to get his Museum set up at the Long Beach Scuba Show with help from family and friends. His loyal daughter Tina ensured he was able to attend several

of the dive events, including DEMA, by escorting him and arranging transportation and accommodation.

In 2010 Tina escorted Nick to the Cayman Islands for his induction into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame. His other awards include the HDS Diving Pioneer Award, two NOGI awards, the DEMA

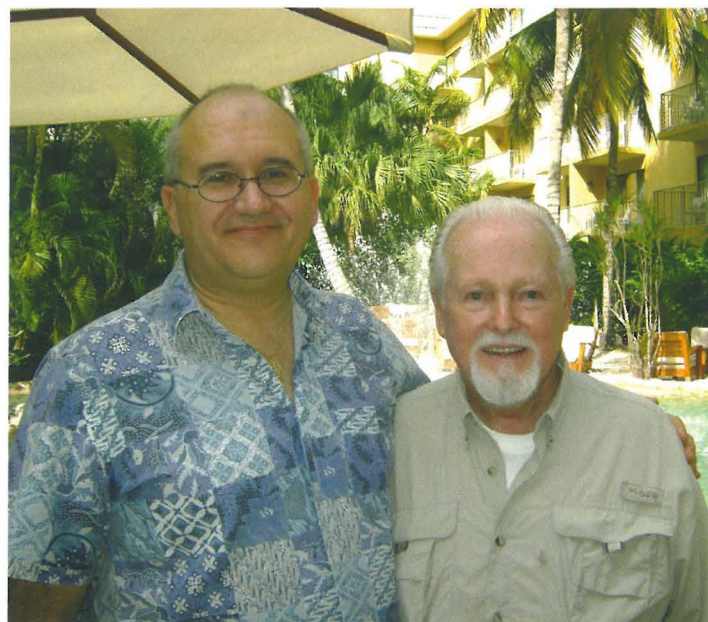
Reaching Out Award, The California Scuba Service Award, the Conrad Limbaugh Memorial Award, and International Legends of Diving Award.

Nick passed away on December 22, 2013, and was buried with military honors in the military cemetery at Forest Lawn, Cypress, California on December 28, 2013.

Through his continuous work in preserving items from diving's history, Nick had rightly earned the title "Keeper of the Flame." Although Nick's flame is now extinguished his work remains an inspiration to hundreds of younger HDS members who, in their own way and in their own collections, continue his work. The extensive collection of The Nick Icorn Museum of Diving History has been kept intact and will be available for viewing in the near future. An announcement will appear in the Journal.

Although Nick has gone, his work in establishing the standards for recreational diver and instructor training, and the HDS Award in his name, ensures he will never be forgotten. 🕯

*By Leslie Leaney. Sourced from The International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame and Tina Louise Icorn. All photos courtesy of Tina Louise Icorn, except where noted.*



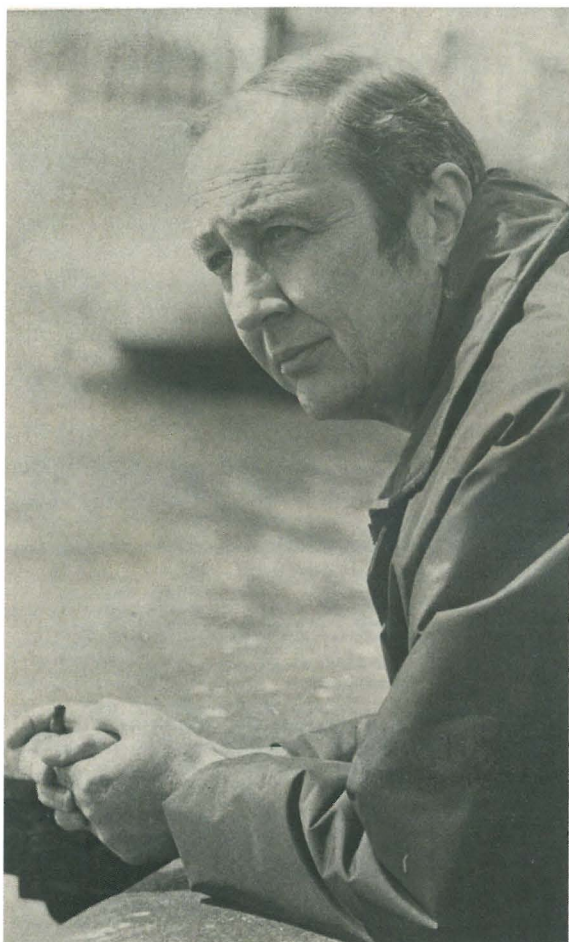
HDSUSA French representative Philippe Rousseau with Nick while in the Cayman Islands for his induction into the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame.



## Kendall McDonald

1927 – 2013

*Chairman of BSAC, International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame inductee*



Kendall McDonald, celebrated chronicler of British diving and shipwrecks for more than 50 years, passed away in January 2013 at the age of 86.

Having applied his journalistic skills as Managing Editor of the *London Evening News* newspaper, McDonald turned his working hand to the world of wrecks after becoming hooked on sport diving in the early 1950s.

As one of the British Sub-Aqua Club's earliest members (number 23), McDonald did much to foster training and active diving within his own BSAC branch and as a member of the club's National Diving Committee. He played a key role in organizing the second World Congress of Underwater Activities in London in 1963.

Outside the club, McDonald had a large influence in publicizing the growing sport through press, television and radio. He was a passionate exponent of branch promotion, working as BSAC's Press Officer and encouraging BSAC clubs in their own promotion of UK diving. He regularly promoted diving in the national press, writing and presenting Britain's first TV series about diving and was one of the first journalists to dive on the wreck of the *Mary Rose* in Hampshire's Solent. Kendall also edited the first BSAC book - *The Underwater Book* - featuring BSAC divers' stories, including accounts from Alexander McKee and his successful search for the *Mary Rose*, and Derek Cockbill on the salvaging of the *Maine*.

McDonald served as BSAC Chairman from 1975 to 1977, after which he carried out more overseas diving than before. He reported from destinations including Florida, the Bahamas, Caymans, Virgin Islands and the Turks and Caicos, at a time when few British divers holidayed abroad. Following his chairmanship of the BSAC, McDonald remained an honorary life vice-president of the club. Amongst specialist press, he was a regular contributor to

BSAC publications and to the club's magazine *Neptune*. He continued to contribute to the magazine's descendant, *DIVER*, up to 2011.

He is the author of some 30 books, including the *Diver Guide* series on wrecks around the coasts of Britain, still sold through Underwater World Publications. McDonald won the BSAC's Colin McLeod Award in 2009 for his contributions to diving publications. In the same year he was elected to the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame, one of only four Britons to be inducted.

He enjoyed living at his 18th century cottage at Thurlestone in South Devon, surrounded by his collection of some 800 wreck books and other documents. He was taken into care for the last two years of his life, finally succumbing to pneumonia last weekend.

Over the years Kendall amassed a significant collection of diving books and publications, many of them now rare items. In 2013 he donated his collection to the British Sub-Aqua Club, where they have pride of place in BSAC HQ in the Kendall McDonald Library.

BSAC's Chief Executive, Mary Tetley, paid tribute to the former BSAC Chairman. "I worked with Kendall when we were on *Diver Magazine* together. He was an amazing storyteller and an awesome larger than life character and I would listen to him for hours. Our thoughts and best wishes go out to his family - Kendall was one of our pioneering divers and wreck authors and he will be sorely missed."

McDonald's wife, Penny, predeceased him by four years and his son, Kevin, by six years. He is survived by his daughter, Joanna, and grandchildren Samantha and Ross. A fuller appreciation of Kendall McDonald's life in diving and wrecks journalism will appear in the March issue of UK's *DIVER* magazine. 🐠

*Sourced in part from [www.divernet.com](http://www.divernet.com) and the BSAC.*





## Art Pinder

1929 – 2014

### *Pioneer Spearfisherman*

Art Pinder was born in Miami, Florida, on February 8, 1929. He graduated from Andrew Jackson Sr. High School in Miami, and enlisted in the U.S. Coast Guard during the Korean War. He went on to become a lifeguard, a spearfishing athlete, a model, TV show host, and boat captain.

Growing up in Miami, spearfishing was a way to provide food for his family. Along with older brothers Don and Fred, Pinder was a spearfishing pioneer. Despite using what is now considered primitive equipment, Pinder shot a 7-foot sailfish by Fowey Light and also speared a 10-foot tiger shark and a 587-pound goliath grouper while freediving.

"He lived quite an interesting life," said Sheri Daye, who wrote the 2009 biography *"Art Pinder: King of Sling,"* a nickname referring to the gear Pinder used, which consisted of a short tube with a band, or sling, that shoots a free spear.

"There'll never be another Art Pinder, that's for sure. He was very respected in the spearfishing community."

Pinder and his brothers won the 1954 National Underwater Spearfishing Championship and in 1955 he and Fred appeared on the cover of *Sports Illustrated*. At 54, Pinder and Don Delmonico won the 1983 U.S. National Spearfishing Championship.

Pinder also modeled swimsuits for Jantzen and appeared in television commercials, which led to his appearance on the Ed Sullivan Show. He was also a pilot, an island resort owner, a TV show host and a professional boat captain, even though he often got seasick.

He is survived by his wife, Alice, and his daughters, sisters, nieces and nephews. 🌹

*Submitted by Sheri Daye. From the Sun Sentinel, January 7, 2014, by Steve Waters.*

## John Huntly Boyd, Jr.

1931 – 2014

### *Capt., U.S. Navy (Ret.), Distinguished Service Medal Recipient*

Huntly was born on December 12, 1931 in Wyandotte, MI to Dr. John H. Boyd and Pauline Kyte Boyd. He graduated from The U.S. Naval Academy in 1953. On January 28, 1956, he married Mary E. (Libby) Hogan. After serving on the *USS Gainard* and the *USS John S. McCain*, he earned a masters degree in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering and the degree of Naval Engineer from The Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

During his Naval career, he performed duty at the Long Beach Naval Shipyard, The Naval Ship Repair Facility in Guam and with the Staffs of Commander Service Group Three and Commander Service Force, U.S. Atlantic Fleet.

He had a sub-specialty of diving and salvage and served as Office in Charge, Navy Experimental Diving Unit and Director of Ocean Engineering and Supervisor of Salvage, Naval Sea Systems Command. In this capacity he was responsible for clearing wrecks from the Suez Canal in 1974, for which he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal, the Navy's highest peacetime decoration.

He was also awarded four Navy Commendation Medals and the Gold Medal Award of the American Society of Naval Engineers. His final five years in the Navy were spent as Planning Officer, Norfolk Naval Shipyard, and Commander, Puget Sound Naval Shipyard.

After his 1981 Navy retirement, he consulted in marine and Navy-related projects. After their Navy travels, Huntly and Libby returned to their long-time home in Alexandria. They moved to The Woodlands in Fairfax, Virginia, in 2008.

He is survived by sons John (Debbie), David (Terri), and Adam; daughters Sarah Blair (Hunt) and Amy Crawford (Neil); and eight grandchildren. He is also survived by a brother, Dr. Paul K. Boyd (Phyllis), and a sister, Brenda Boyd Camou. In addition to his parents, Huntly was predeceased by his wife, Libby, and his brother, David F. Boyd. He was a Fourth Degree member of the Knights of Columbus. 🌹

*Sourced from correspondence from David Ball, Navy Divers Association.*

## Ken McElvain

1930 – 2013

### *USN Diver, member of HDS and California Classic Divers*

Retired El Segundo Fire Department Captain Kenneth (Bud) McElvain answered his last call December 31, 2013. Born November 23, 1930 in Evansville, Indiana,

Bud was a country boy from meager beginnings who went on to lead an impressive and honorable life.

Bud proudly joined the US Navy in 1948, where he became an accomplished Navy diver and traveled the world while serving his country.

He then worked at Standard Oil after leaving the Navy and remained there until he joined the El Segundo Fire Department on April 1, 1959, as one of the "April Fools Gang."

Bud moved his family to El Segundo shortly thereafter, where they still reside today. He retired from the ESFD in 1985 and served in the Coast Guard Reserves as a Fire Fighter.

In his later years, Bud returned to his love of diving when he joined the California Classic Equipment Divers Club, teaching young divers to use the classic diving equipment, including the Mark V helmet he wore in the Navy.

According to his family, Bud was an archetypical "Real Man."

In addition to his service with the Navy, Coast Guard, and ESFD, Bud was a Historical Diving Instructor, Moose Lodge Pilgrim, Coors "heavy" partaker, and most importantly, proud Dad, Grandpa, and Great Grandpa.

Bud was preceded in death by his beloved wife Barbara, parents, and three brothers.

He is survived by his four children Naomi, Noel, Nora, and Michael, as well as eight grandchildren, three great grandchildren, and an eclectic extended family.

Bud affected the lives of countless people during his many adventures, and he will live on in the hearts of everyone who loved him.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the California Classic Equipment Divers Club. 🌹

*Submitted by Noel Saldina*





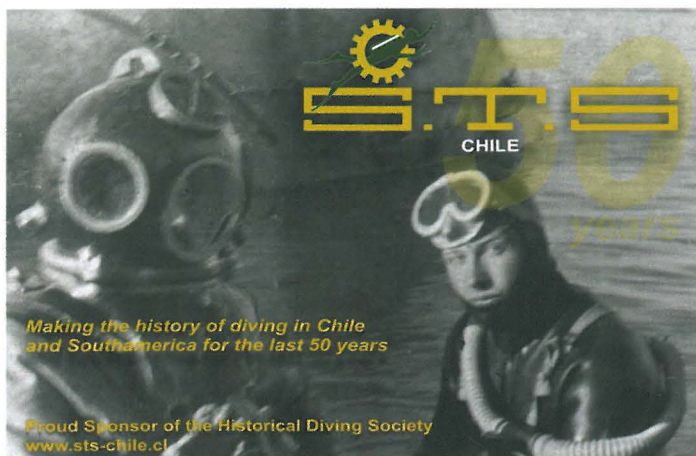
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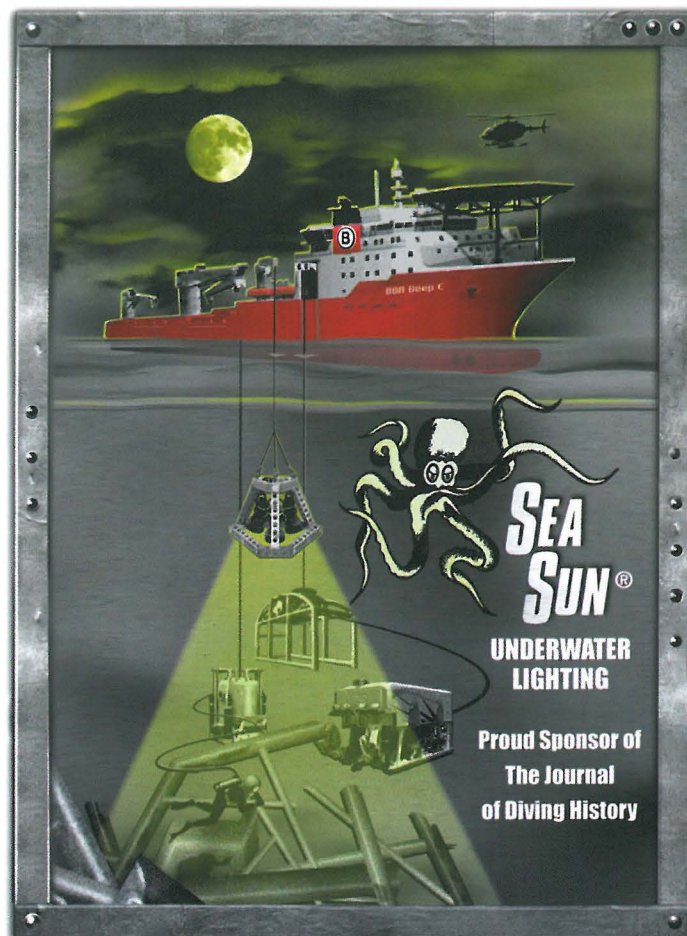
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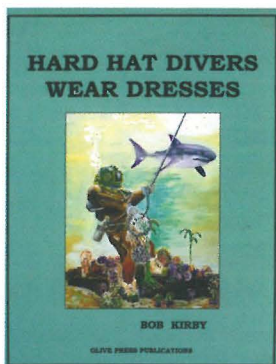




# The Diving History Library

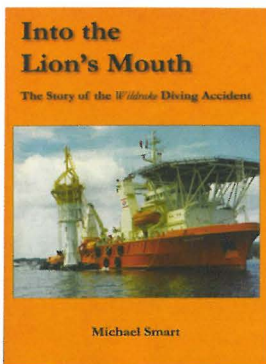
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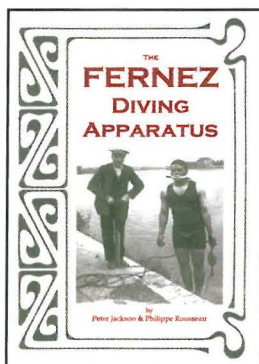
## HARD HAT DIVERS WEAR DRESSES BY BOB KIRBY

Bob Kirby's autobiography covering his development of Kirby Morgan dive equipment and his work in commercial, military and Hollywood diving. Contains numerous unique photos from Kirby's career including some of his helmets. As the story of one of diving's few living legends, it will stand as a personal record of one mans unique journey through an industry at its prime. Self published by Kirby, with warts and all. Limited to only 1,000 copies. Perfect bound volume, 262 pages, b&w photos, \$40.00, plus \$12.50 domestic p&p.



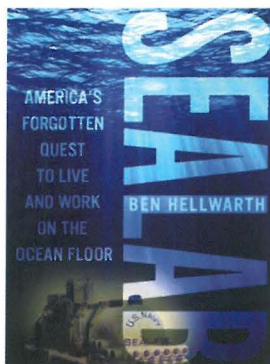
## INTO THE LION'S MOUTH: THE STORY OF THE WILDRAKE DIVING ACCIDENT BY MICHAEL SMART

A thoroughly researched and superbly presented story of one of diving's bitterest tragedy's that should be obligatory reading for anyone putting a diving helmet on their head, or thinking about it. "Into the Lions Mouth is truly a well-written work. I found it hard to put down. I can highly recommend this book to anyone, even beyond the offshore industry." - Bev Morgan. "Compelling, harrowing and impressively well researched. A former North Sea saturation diver, Michael Smart not only knows his subject inside out, he explains it all with admirable clarity. Holds the reader's attention to the last page." - Christopher Swann. Soft bound, 2011, 445 pages, color and b&w photos, diagrams, map, index, bibliography, appendix, end notes. \$30, plus \$7.50 domestic p&p.



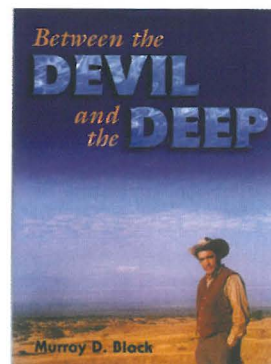
## THE FERENZ DIVING APPARATUS BY PETER JACKSON AND PHILIPPE ROUSSEAU

This excellent book is about one of the almost forgotten diving pioneers, Maurice Fernez, and his diving apparatus. It was reviewed in *The Journal of Diving History*, Issue 66, p.36. Privately published in England, 2010. Card stock bound, 90 pages, b&w photos, patent drawings, appendix. 5 3/4 " x 8 1/4." \$24 plus \$6 p&p domestic shipping. CA res. add 8.75% sales tax, NV res. add 8.1% sales tax Contact [products@hds.org](mailto:products@hds.org) for overseas shipping rates. Limited to 250 copies!



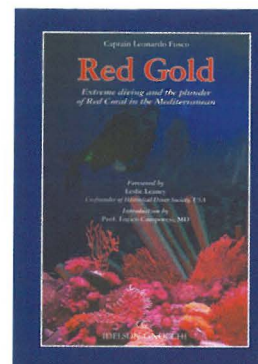
## SEALAB: AMERICA'S FORGOTTEN QUEST TO LIVE AND WORK ON THE OCEAN FLOOR BY BEN HELLWARTH

An extensive and detailed record of the triumphs and tragedies of the SEALAB program, based upon Hellwarth's painstaking research. Hellwarth, a veteran journalist, interviewed many surviving participants from the SEALAB experiments and conducted extensive documentary research to write the first comprehensive account of one of the most important and least known experiments in US history. His compelling narrative covers the story from its scrappy origins in Dr. Bond's Navy laboratory, through harrowing close calls, historic triumphs, and the mysterious tragedy that brought about the end of SEALAB. Hardbound in dust jacket, 2012, 388 pages b&w photos, index, 19 pages of reference notes. \$28 plus \$7.50 domestic p&p.



## BETWEEN THE DEVIL AND THE DEEP BY MURRAY BLACK

As one of the early pioneers of commercial oilfield diving, Murray black was an industry leader with an abundance of natural bravery. After graduating from E.R. Cross' Sparling School of Deep Sea Diving, Black progressed through the colorful ranks of the abalone diving and eventually founder DIVCON. History was made with DIVCON, with surface bounce dives past 500 feet as Black consistently pushed the envelope. The book also contains details of Blacks post diving career with friends like John Wayne and other characters. nd, 189 pages with b&w photos. \$25, plus \$5 domestic p&p.



## RED GOLD BY LEONARDO FUSCO

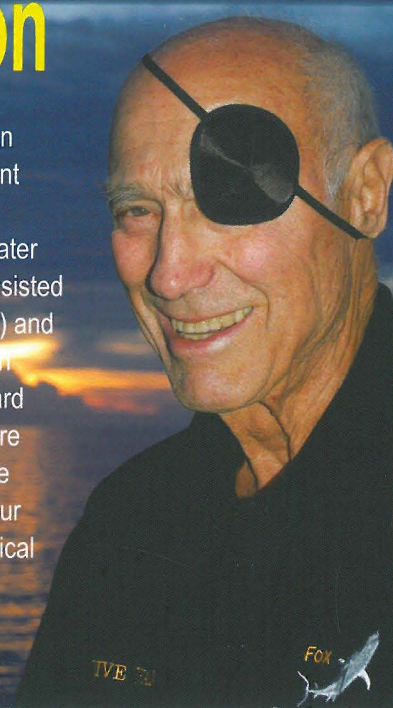
A first person account of Leonardo Fusco's career as a diver, translated from the Italian. After his discovery of Red Coral, and his use of the Aqua Lung to harvest it, Fusco adapts to the deep diving life of a Mediterranean Sea gypsy. His journey includes success and tragedy as he moves from deep air diving to rebreathers, interacting with Hans Hass, Gerhard Haux, Professor Buhlmann and others. His later career is spent in the fields of submersibles, hyperbarics, and in efforts to preserve the remnants of the Red Coral colonies so effectively harvested. Introduction by Enrico Camporesi and Foreword by Leslie Leaney. Reviewed by Brett Gilliam in issue 69 of the *Journal of Diving History*. Hard bound in dust jacket, 271 pages, color and b&w photographs. \$25, plus \$7.50 p&p.



# The Stan Waterman Film Collection

The Historical Diving Society USA proudly presents the Stan Waterman film collection on DVD. Stan Waterman, one of America's best known and most beloved underwater cinematographers, has spent nearly sixty years filming on, under, and around the sea. From the late 1950s into the 1970s, Stan took his films on the lecture circuit across the United States. Stan brought the adventure of underwater exploration to the nation at a time when diving as a sport was still in its infancy. His later career consisted of major motion pictures (*Blue Water, White Death* in 1968 and Peter Benchley's *The Deep* in 1977) and television (*American Sportsman*, *Spirit of Adventure*, and *Expedition Earth*). His film work and ocean ambassadorship has earned Stan many awards, including five Emmys, a lifetime Achievement Award from the Boston Sea Rovers, the The Historical Diving Society USA's Hans Hass Diving to Adventure Award, and the DEMA Reaching Out Award, to name just a few. Most recently, he was named to the International Scuba Diving Hall of Fame. The Discovery Channel produced and broadcast a two-hour biographical special about Mr. Waterman, *The Man Who Loves Sharks*. Stan also sits on the Historical Diving Society USA's Advisory Board.

**Now you can own and enjoy Stan's films. See below for volumes currently available.**



## Volume 1 \$15.00

**THE LOST TREASURE OF THE CONCEPCION:** Burt Webber's search for, and eventual discovery of, the 17th Century Spanish treasure galleon lost in a storm on the Caribbean's Silver Shoals. The film traces the expedition from concept to conclusion and provides insight into the life of a treasure hunter.

## Volume 2 \$15.00

**OFF THE WALL:** Follow Peter Benchley and his family on a diving adventure that includes pirates, shipwrecks, and giant moray eels.

**UNLIMITED AIR:** Stan takes us back to the Caymans but this time we travel and dive with Our World Underwater scholarship winner Lisa Truitt.

## Volume 3 \$15.00

**BEYOND JAWS:** Includes clips from Stan's earliest dives in 1958 through filming Great White Sharks in Australia with friends Peter Benchley and Rodney Fox. Sharks are the center of attention on these dives.

**A QUICK TRIP TO THREE OCEANS:** A medley of images from many of Stan's adventures during the 1960s and 1970s. Stan takes us to the Caribbean, Bahamas, Cocos Island, Papua New Guinea, Yap and many other exotic locations.

## Volume 4 \$15.00

**ROUGHING IT IN THE CORAL SEA:** A tongue-in-cheek exposé of life aboard a multimillion dollar "hell ship".

**FINS TO THE RIGHT, FINS TO THE LEFT:** Return to Cocos Island for a thorough shark-fest. Together the films offer nearly an hour of Stan's delightful images and eloquent narration.

## Volume 5 \$15.00

**MORA WHEELS:** This is the story of the Moray Wheels a Boston-based Scuba club for divers with disabilities. Produced in the 1970's, Stan follows two students as they undergo their initial dive training in the pool at M. I. T., then make check out dives at the New England Aquarium in Boston. The students face the challenges of diving in open water at Bonaire, Netherland Antilles.

**GENESIS 1-27:** "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them." Stan's underwater imagery set to a haunting musical score won a Gold Medal at the inaugural United Kingdom Film Festival.

## A BITING KIND OF SHARK:

Eighteen years after filming *Blue Water, White Death*, Stan returns to Dangerous Reef, South Australia, with famed Australian shark expert Rodney Fox to once again film the Great White Shark. They are accompanied by underwater photographers and scientists from Canada, Saudi Arabia, and the United States.

## Volume 6 \$15.00

**THE WAR REEFS:** In 1942, the small, South Pacific Island of Guadalcanal became the scene of a decisive, World War II, air-sea battle between the United States and Japan. It was a turning point in the war for the US and its allies, but a resounding defeat for the Japanese. The terrible cost of the battle can be found enumerated on the sea floor in what is now called Iron

Bottom Sound for the scores of ships and aircraft that lie there. Stan and his companions visit the waters surrounding Guadalcanal, and as they explore Japan's sunken fleet, they discover that the debris of war has, over time, been changed, softened by the sea, and is now the home of a fantastic array of marine animals.

## Volume 7 \$15.00

**PETER AND THE SHARK:** Stan, Peter Benchley, and crew travel to Australia to dive with Great White Sharks. Along the way, they encounter Manta Rays, sea turtles, Bronze Whalers, Tiger Sharks on the Great Barrier Reef, and then,

at Dangerous Reef, the big guys showed up. Originally aired on the American Sportsmen Show

**THE CALL OF THE RUNNING TIDE:** Edited for U. S. Divers from Stan's original lecture film, Call of the Running

Tide documents a year that Stan and the Waterman clan spent living in the South Pacific, diving the waters of Tahiti and Bora Bora, and learning the culture of the South Pacific Islanders.

**THE LAST OF THE RIGHT WHALES:** Stan travels to Patagonia to search for and dive with Right Whales. These amazing, gentle creatures were hunted nearly to extinction because they were the "right" whale to bring large profits to early whalers. Stan also looks at the other creatures living along this lonely, desolate coastline.

## Volume 8 \$15.00

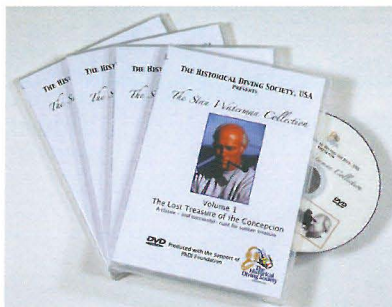
**THE BEST OF CAYMANS:** Stan visits the Cayman Islands aboard Wayne Hasson's Aggressor Fleet liveaboard dive boats. Along on the trip are Stan's good friend Peter Benchley and his family. They dive the wreck of the Ore Verde; visit Jew Fish, Barracuda, and Grouper; dive reefs, walls, and visit a shallow sand patch filled with sting rays.

**THE SINAI REEFS:** The best of the Red Sea, aboard the live aboard dive boat, SUN BOAT. Stan and mixed group of divers from the US visit reefs along the Sinai Peninsula, the Gulf of Eilat, Ras Muhammad, and the Straits of Tehran. The beautiful colors of reef fish and corals endure in this film.

**BELIZE - A DIVING HOLIDAY:** An Aggressor Fleet trip, this time to the reefs of Belize. Day or night, the reefs are ablaze with color and the photographers on board take full advantage of the scene.

**CORTEZ - THE HAMMERHEAD:** Stan and Peter Benchley travel to the Espiritu Santo Seamount in the Sea of Cortez to film the massive schools of Hammerhead Sharks known to congregate there. Accompanied by shark researcher, Dr. Ted Rulison, Peter and Stan learn about the enigmatic Hammerheads and research in shark behavior.

**STELLA MARIS:** In another American Sportsmen episode, Stan films author Peter Benchley and Dr. Sylvia Earle as they dive with sharks at Stella Maris in the Caribbean. First dives include encounters with a large Manta Ray, and individual sharks, then the large school arrives and the dives get interesting.



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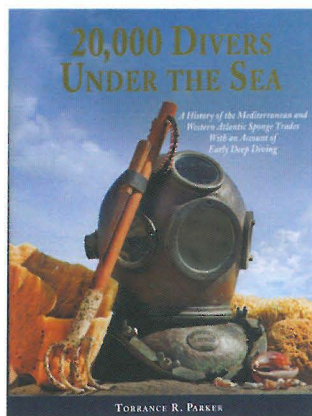
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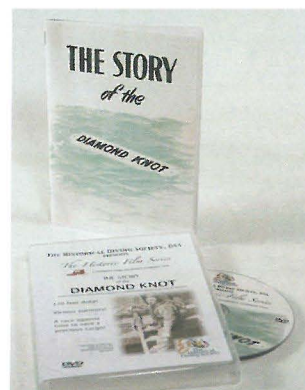
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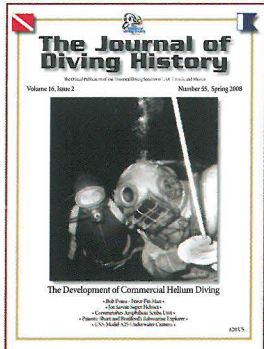
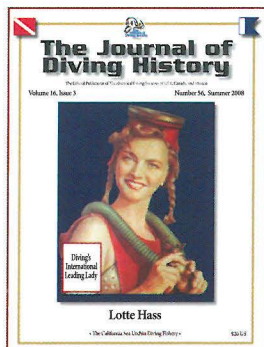
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